

Hafa Adai!

CNMI Republicans gather in show of support for Torres. **PAGE 3**

SSHS battalion hosts JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge. **PAGE 6**

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Habitat protection secured for 23 Micronesian species

HAGĀTŊA, Guam—Following a successful legal challenge by the Center for Biological Diversity and Blue Ocean Law, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must now identify and protect critical habitat for 23 endangered and threatened species located throughout greater Micronesia. The Service now has to act on critical habitat for these nine rare animals and 14 plants by June 26, 2025.



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
The Mariana eight-spot butterfly.

"I'm relieved these 23 beautiful Pacific Island species found nowhere else on Earth will finally get badly needed habitat protections," said Maxx Phillips, Hawai'i director and a staff attorney at the Center. "This is a big win, as endangered and threatened

See **HABITAT** on **Page 4**

2 seek TRO against Senate impeachment proceedings

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

With the Senate set to vote on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' motion to dismiss the articles of impeachment this Friday, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (D-Rota) has filed a motion with the Superior Court requesting a temporary restraining order prohibiting Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) from moving forward with the impeachment proceedings—specifically this Friday's session—to decide on the pending motion to dismiss.

See **TRO** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Fifth grade students from Oleai Elementary School listen to one of the presentations at the NMI Museum grounds during the Annual Environmental Expo yesterday morning.

LEIGH GASES

Story on
Page 2

Sablan bats for \$10 minimum wage

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) has proposed a House bill that could raise the CNMI minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10 in the next four years.

During a special House session yesterday, Sablan offered House Bill 22-98 to establish a CNMI minimum wage that

is not less than the federal minimum wage; to gradually increase the CNMI minimum wage by \$0.55 increments within 120 days of the effective date of the act, and every year thereafter until the minimum wage is \$10 per hour.

The bill was referred to the Ways and Means Committee following the session.

See **SABLAN** on **Page 4**

United: Masks no longer required

By **LEIGH GASES**
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CORRESPONDENT

Face masks are no longer required for most United Airlines customers.

In a statement United released in their social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter yesterday morning, the airline said that masks are no longer required for United customers or employees on domestic flights,

select international flights (dependent upon the arrival country's requirements) or at U.S. airports. More comfortable keeping yours on? Go right ahead...the choice is yours!"

The post has garnered a lot of comments from people all over the internet in support of this, with one Facebook user saying, "Thank goodness flying for work has been miserable and fabric over your face

See **UNITED** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



NATION

Three shootings in the U.S. over the Easter weekend cap a monthlong spate of gun violence.

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WORLD

The Russian military begins a new and potentially climactic phase of the war in Ukraine.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Whether in groupings or sets, vignettes provide an opportunity can help bring nearly any space to life.

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Local

BECQ resumes in-person expo for fifth graders

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

After doing it online last year and not having one in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality finally resumed its in-person Annual Environmental Expo yesterday at the NMI Museum grounds from 8:30am to 11:30am, as the first of a two-day expo.

The expo, which is held every April as part of the celebration of Environmental Awareness Month, is intended for fifth grade students from nine elementary schools, which consist of three private schools and six public schools. The first half of the schools went yesterday and the second half is scheduled for today.

The expo included 14 exhibitors from the Northern Marianas College CREES

Aquaculture, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. National Park Service - American Memorial Park, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Pacific Bird Conservation and Avifauna Conservation and, for the first time, Friends of the Marianas Trench, and CNMI Zoning.

Both BECQ's divisions—the Coastal Resource Man-

agement and the Division of Environmental Quality—were present to showcase their various programs and share how each department works in preserving the environment and how important it is to keep the environment clean for their health and the health of future generations.

Justin Agustines, an NMC Education practicum student and chaperone of William S. Reyes Elementary School

fifth grade students, said the students were interested in the expo “especially since it’s related to the community, I guess they feel a sense of place.” He said the expo also gives the students “a direction and know where to go. I feel like it’s...an encouragement for them to continue with their recycling activity they have at school and maybe someone will find interest in this environmental field and work in this career one day.”

DEQ director Zabrina Cruz said that parents and teachers were surveyed on whether or not they will allow students to attend the expo and that “they were willing for face to face as long as all protocols are followed and it’s outdoors.”

The first day’s turn out, Cruz said, “was such a success. We’re happy to be out here again and hopefully everything stays good and just keeps getting better with the pandemic so we can continue doing our [expo] face to face.”

Cruz thanked the NMI Museum for letting BECQ use the venue and facilities, and to “all

of our exhibitors and teachers for submitting their registration and being a big help.

“We were so happy to see that teachers and parents were willing to have their kids participate in the face to face [event]. It just goes to show that, as a community, we feel safer....If the survey results had not been so good, we would totally go to a virtual platform,” said Cruz. “But of course, online is not as great as in person, where the students and teachers as well can take a break from the classroom and learn outdoors.”

The Islandwide Cleanup on April 22 and 23 will wrap up Environmental Awareness Month. Cruz invites everyone to the cleanup, which happens on Earth Day, April 22, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, and on Saturday, April 23, from 8am to 10am. To volunteer and register the site that you or your group want to clean up, email Tom Pangelinan (tom.pangelinan@becq.gov.mp) or Edward S. Dela Cruz (edward.delacruz@becq.gov.mp), or call (670) 664-8500.

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² A Pure Checking account with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. When you enroll in eStatements, you will no longer receive paper statements. If you choose to receive both paper and eStatements, a fee of \$5 will be imposed each month. You must be enrolled in FHB Online to get eStatements.

COVID UPDATE

Zero hospitalization; 19 new cases

Nineteen additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 11,221 cases since March 28, 2020. A duplicate was deleted.

As of April 18, 2022, there were zero individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

Of the 19 new cases, seven were identified on April 11; two on April 12; five on April 14; two on April 15, 2022 (one on Tinian); two on April 16; and one on April 17, 2022.

From April 11 – April 17, 2022, there were zero new hospitalizations.

Of the total number of cases identified in the CNMI, there have already been 11,177 recoveries; 10 active cases; and 34 COVID-19-related deaths.

A total of 10,346 of these cases were identified via community testing and 875 via travel testing.

The next report will be on April 25, 2022.

A total of 1,148 COVID-19 tests were conducted April 11-17, 2022: 371 on April 11; 151 on April 12; 47 on April 13, 2022; 317 on April 14; 209 on April 15; 37 on April 16; and 16 on April 17.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate when they are sick (except to get medical care), even if they do

not have symptoms; rest; stay hydrated; can take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, to relieve symptoms; and live COVID-19 safe.

Report your COVID-19 positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting within 5 days of your positive test result for a copy of your quarantine completion certificate.

Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and live COVID-19 safe (except to get medical care or get tested for COVID-19). Other options include seeing their health care provider or calling the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. For a guidebook on how to live COVID-19 safe, visit www.staysafecnmi.com/livewithcovid19.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), immunocompromised persons, or unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from

See ZERO on Page 4



CNMI Republicans gather in show of support

The Republican Party of the CNMI's board directors and over 200 supporters assembled at the CNMI Legislature yesterday to demonstrate their strong support for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

A news statement yesterday said the board of directors stands in solidarity of their call for the Senate to dismiss the Articles of Impeachment.

Those in attendance represent all walks of life – nationalities, ethnic backgrounds, socio-economic status, and religious faith – to freely assemble. Many of them offered public testimony in their own words. Many more expressed their strong opposition to the impeachment process altogether.

"I am deeply humbled to see so many who have come into my life over the years support me. Young adults and

retirees, relatives and former colleagues showed up. Quite a number spoke up. Among the most moving was testimony given by a young man who shared how I've been a father figure to him over the years, a mentor in life. I was moved to tears because, despite these distractions, our supporters did not cower to the political pressures. The opposite happened. They came forward to testify as to the positive impact I've had, our hardworking administration has had, upon the lives of our people, young and old. Si yu'os ma'ase to my family and extended family from throughout the Commonwealth who out to support me and first lady Diann through this difficult process. Un dankulo na agrediesemento para I ma-aina-ta yan I retirees lookue for their continued love

and support," said Torres.

"We are not swayed in our support for Gov. Torres. Rather, we are moved to rise in opposition to all the political games that the challengers are throwing in our path," said CNMI GOP president Candace Celis.

"A record of hard work and a genuine heart cannot be easily erased with political shenanigans. Our people are living testimony of the Torres administration's successes. His achievements are inherent in the new buildings, roads and programs that he has brought to our community," said Committee to Elect chair James Ada.

For information on joining the movement to elect Torres-Sablan for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, and the entire Republican slate contact Celis at cnmigop2022@gmail.com. (PR)

DHS sets TPS process for Ukraine and Sudan

WASHINGTON—The Department of Homeland Security posted yesterday two Federal Register notices on Temporary Protected Status for Ukraine and Sudan. These notices provide information about how to register for TPS under each country's designation. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas previously announced the 18-month designation of Ukraine for TPS and the 18-month designation of Sudan for TPS.

The registration process for both countries begins on April 19, 2022. All individuals who want to request TPS under the designation of Ukraine or Sudan must file an application.

To be eligible under the Ukraine designation, individuals must demonstrate their continuous residence in the United States since April 11, 2022, and continuous physical presence in the United States since the designation date in the Federal Register notice. USCIS estimates 59,600 currently in the United States individu-

als may be eligible for TPS under the designation of Ukraine. Ukrainian nationals currently outside the United States are not eligible for TPS under this designation, and they will not become eligible by relocating to the United States in the coming weeks. Ukrainians are encouraged instead to apply for a visa or other legal pathway at a U.S. consulate abroad.

To be eligible under the Sudan designation, individuals must demonstrate their continuous residence in the United States since March 1, 2022, and continuous physical presence in the United States since the designation date in the Federal Register notice. Individuals arriving in the United States after March 1, 2022, are not eligible for TPS under this designation and may be subject to removal if they have no other authorization to be in the United States. USCIS estimates 3,090 individuals may be eligible for TPS under the designation of Sudan. This includes an estimated

2,390 newly eligible individuals as well as an estimated 700 current TPS Sudan beneficiaries, whose TPS-related documentation has been automatically extended pursuant to court orders through at least Dec. 31, 2022. These individuals must file a new application for TPS under the new Sudan designation to avoid losing protection if the court injunctions are lifted.

Individuals applying for TPS under the Ukraine or Sudan designations must submit Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, during the 18-month initial registration period that runs from April 19, 2022, through Oct. 19, 2023. Ukraine and Sudan TPS applicants are eligible to file Form I-821 online. When filing a TPS application, applicants can also request an Employment Authorization Document by submitting a completed Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with their Form I-821. Applicants may also submit Form I-765 online. (USCIS)

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UNITED

From Page 1

isn't stopping a thing. Thank you for letting every person make the decision themselves not being forced! Happy to get back on the road now!"

Not everyone is excited, though, with one user saying, "I'm keeping mine on. I've been wearing a mask when flying for more than 20 years. Not only does it protect me from airborne viruses in the unventilated cabin, but helps keep me from becoming dehydrated during the flight by helping to keep my nose and throat hydrated."

When asked about the matter yesterday, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said in a statement that it continues to recommend that CNMI residents wear a mask based on their personal preference, informed by their personal level of risk.

"People who are considered immunocompromised or at high risk for severe illness

should have a plan for rapid testing, if needed, and should talk to their healthcare provider about whether they are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, pre-exposure prophylaxis, and monoclonal antibodies.

"CNMI residents should stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination. A second booster shot is available to individuals aged 50 or older and certain immunocompromised individuals," it added.

One traveler from Saipan, Rica Lozarito, who was at the Guam airport awaiting her flight to the Philippines during this interview, said she will still wear her mask. "Wearing a mask makes me feel safe and it's fashionable as well."

Furthermore, she said that when she gets to the Philippines, she will continue to wear her mask at the airport and when she travels around there. At the time of the interview, she observed that everyone at the Guam airport still had their masks on.

SABLAN

From Page 1

Sablan said House Bill 22-98 repeals or amends outdated sections of the CNMI wage and hour law that discriminate against workers with unpaid wage claims and certain categories of workers, including elderly workers, domestic workers, and workers with disabilities.

House Bill 22-98 also takes aim at the extremely limited window of time for workers to file claims for unpaid wages or other compensation owed them. Under current statutes, workers are allowed just six months after the last occurring violation, or within 30 days after termination of a contract to recoup unpaid wages.

"It often takes more time than that for workers to realize that their rights have been violated and that they are owed money, and to understand and navigate the process for filing complaints. Over the years, many workers in the CNMI who have been cheated by their employers have had their claims time-barred and dismissed. With this legislation, we extend the time for filing claims to six years, similar to Hawaii," she said.

In addition, House Bill 22-98 tackles the issue of wage theft, where employers who cheat their workers hurt not only the workers and their families, but also the reputation of the Commonwealth.

"We want the CNMI to be a place where workers' rights are protected and where legitimate businesses can compete on a fair and level playing field. This legislation stiffens the penalties for bad actor employers who violate wage and hour laws, includ-

ing employers who retaliate against workers who file complaints," the representative said.

According to Sablan, the incremental increase is similar to the approach taken with the application of the federal Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, which recognized the need to raise the minimum wage to fairer, more livable, and more competitive levels, while also taking into account uncertain economic conditions and the need of local employers to have time to adjust.

Work on the legislation began in 2021, when Sablan reviewed workforce and wage data available for the CNMI, including prevailing wage studies and U.S. Government Accountability Office reports, surveyed wage laws in other states and territories; consulted with labor lawyers and advocates, and considered the enforcement challenges and recommendations from workers and both federal and local labor officials.

"According to the 2021 Prevailing Wage Study, the median hourly wage in the CNMI is \$9.97. This means that half of the CNMI's workers are already earning \$9.97 per hour or more. A GAO report on workforce trends in the Marianas released last February indicated that more than 94% of the CNMI's workers are already earning more than the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, and that a hypothetical minimum wage increase to \$10 per hour would affect half of the current workforce," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Alleged ethics violations roil impeachment hearing

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lawyer of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres argues that Rep. Tina Sablan's (D-Saipan) participation in the House of Representatives' vote to impeach the governor may have been a violation of the code of ethics but it was also pointed out that Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan) may have had his own violation for failing to recuse himself from drafting the Senate's impeachment rules.

These points came up yesterday during the Senate hearing on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' motion to dismiss the Article of Impeachment, when his lawyer, Anthony Aguon, presented alleged ethics violations made by Rep. Tina Sablan, who had voted to impeach Torres. The representa-

tive is a gubernatorial opponent of the governor this November.

However, Sen. Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) pointed out that, based on that logic, Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan) may have also violated the Constitution's code of ethics clause for failing to recuse himself from drafting the Senate's impeachment rules. Sen. Vinnie Sablan has already asked to be recused from participating in the impeachment proceedings, since he is Torres' running-mate this November, but DeLeon Guerrero said the recusal "did not happen until March 28. That is one month and three days after



DeLeon Guerrero



Sablan

adopting the Rules of impeachment. Is that proper? We want to call out code of ethics violations on somebody else, yet within our own home, we have our own violations. That's the point that I'm trying to make. We need honor. In order for us to move forward, we have to look at ourselves, nine members of the Senate. Is there honor in what took place on Feb. 25, when a month later, there's a declaration of conflict.

Where's the honor there? Yet we have the audacity to call somebody else out. Fairness is following the rules. We ourselves in this very house, we don't follow it. How is that fair and honest, and not a violation

of the code of ethics?" she said.

DeLeon Guerrero further said that Sen. Vinnie Sablan should have declared a conflict and recused himself before the drafting of the Senate rules on impeachment.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ZERO

From Page 2

COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other unvaccinated individuals.

Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 682-7468. (PR)

HABITAT

From Page 1

species with federally protected critical habitat are twice as likely to recover as those without such protections. Safeguarding the places these unique plants and animals require for survival is crucial in our fight against the extinction crisis."

Found in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia, the 23 species are threatened by habitat loss due to agricultural and urban sprawl, military expansion and training, invasive species and climate change.

The unique species, including tiny sac-winged bats, bright orange and yellow tree snails, and beautiful eight-spot butterflies, are also vulnerable because of small population sizes, invasive species and limited range. Several of the species in Guam and other islands in the Northern Marianas are severely threatened by military expansion related to the relocation of 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa.

The Fish and Wildlife Service

listed the 23 species in 2015. But the agency failed to designate critical habitat for them, as required under the Endangered Species Act. Yesterday's agreement resolves a lawsuit filed by the Center in 2021, when habitat protections were more than five years overdue.

"With everything going on right now with the military build-up, we are in danger of losing important parts of our culture. We are the people of the land and so when our native plants and animals thrive, we thrive," said Frances Meno, a local yo'amte, or traditional healer. "There is no future without them."

While listing a species as endangered or threatened is the first step in ensuring its survival and recovery, designating critical habitat is a necessary second step. That helps prevent federal actions that destroy or harm areas plants and animals need to survive—and helps conserve what remains of a species' limited native range.

"Without critical habitat designations, native species like the Mariana eight-spot butterfly, which exists only in the Marianas

Islands, would be lost, and along with them irretrievable aspects of our Indigenous ecosystem and culture," said attorney Julian Aguon of Blue Ocean Law. "As Indigenous peoples, we stand up for our other-than-human relatives."

Background

Pacific sheath-tailed bat: This tiny insectivorous, sac-winged bat has already been wiped out in Guam and the island of Vanuatu. Across its remaining range, the bat is threatened by habitat destruction from nonnative species, development, military training, urbanization, typhoons and climate change.

Slevin's skink: Also known as the Mariana skink, this social creature has already been eliminated from Guam. The rest of the skink's range is also threatened by habitat destruction from nonnative species, development, military training, urbanization, typhoons and climate change. Military training puts the skink at risk of direct harm from live-fire training exercises.

Mariana eight-spot butterfly: Native to Guam and Saipan,

the butterfly is no longer found on Saipan. It is reliant on two host plant species, one of which is used as a native medicinal plant to treat various ailments. In addition to being threatened by parasitic wasps, the butterfly's habitat is similarly threatened by nonnative species, development, military training, urbanization, typhoons and climate change.

Guam tree snail: Found only in Guam, this once-common, air-breathing snail is now endangered. In addition to the common habitat threats listed above, the Guam tree snail is threatened by fire and overcollection for commercial and recreational purposes.

Bulbophyllum guamense: Part of the Guam Plant Extinction Prevention Program, this orchid has a greenish-yellow flower that smells faintly of carrion. In the past the plant occurred in common large mat-like formations on trees. However, in addition to habitat-based threats, the orchid is being hurt by predation from non-native slugs. (Center for Biological Diversity)

TRO

From Page 1

According to the *pro se* motion that Manglona and Carmen Patricia DeLeon Guerrero filed Monday, the two seek to intervene in the ongoing court proceedings in Torres' lawsuit against the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, and have the court issue a restraining order to prohibit Hofschneider from moving forward with the impeachment proceedings.

"Movants request that the court issue a temporary restraining order that prohibits CNMI Senate president/Senate impeachment presiding officer Hofschneider, and all others acting in concert, in tandem, together with, on behalf of, collusively with, and/or aiding

Hofschneider, from proceeding with the pending motion to dismiss the Senate activities, proceedings, and matters, including the Articles of Impeachment, relating to and/or arising from the Jan. 12, 2022, impeachment of CNMI Gov. Ralph Torres for theft, corruption and neglect of duty, which pending motion to dismiss and related activities," the motion stated.

Manglona also wants the court to order Hofschneider and the CNMI Senate to provide the CNMI House of Representatives an extended deadline of May 19, 2022, to comply with the Senate's rules in regards to the impeachment records.

"During which extended time CNMI House members and personnel may take any steps necessary or advisable to modify, amend, reorganize,

and submit to Hofschneider and/or the Senate clerk, the extensive records of approximately 10,000 pages upon which Torres' impeachment was substantially predicated; and, at which time the House record shall be deemed accepted and admissible by Hofschneider and the CNMI Senate, in any and/or all subsequent CNMI Senate proceedings," the motion said.

Manglona also asked the court to compel Hofschneider and the CNMI Senate to allow the House to select and designate either a single CNMI House member, or up to five House members, to serve in the capacity of impeachment prosecutors.

Manglona also brought up these same requests with the Senate president during yesterday's hearing.

However, the Senate president and other senators stood firm in the decision to prohibit House impeachment prosecutor Rep. Corina Magofna (D-Saipan) from taking part in the proceedings, and continued to hear Torres' motion without a two-party system.

Following a presentation from Torres' counsel, Anthony Aguon, the Senate took under advisement the motion to dismiss and will reconvene on Friday for a vote.

The vote will be among seven members of the Senate since Sens. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan) and Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan) have recused themselves from taking part in the impeachment proceedings.

"I hope the senators hear me and I will be waiting on their decision," Aguon said.

‘The CNMI deserves a fair and honest government’

Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) says her campaign for this year’s gubernatorial election is driven by hope for a “well-

governed” CNMI.

With election right around the corner, campaign season is in full bloom and, accord-

ing to Sablan, the focus of her and running mate Rep. Leila Staffler’s gubernatorial campaign is “hope for a fair and honest government.”

“Leila and I are excited to be running a campaign that is driven by hope for the future. We’re getting a lot of positive feedback from people who believe in the vision that we’re presenting and the kind of change that we are committed to delivering for the CNMI,” she said.

She explained that the CNMI deserves a government that is fair and fiscally respon-

sible—overall a government that cares for its constituents.

“I think one of the top concerns is public corruption. People want and deserve a government that is committed to good governance. To us, Leila and me, that means a government that is fair and honest and fiscally responsible, a government that really cares about its people and will prioritize very scarce public resources for things that really matter for the long-term development and the well-being of the whole community. That’s healthcare, infrastructure de-

velopment, education,” she said.

If elected governor, Sablan said the dream really is to help the future generation thrive through honest governance.

“We want to build up all of these institutions and infrastructures so our young people, our future generations, can thrive. That’s the kind of community that we envision. We believe that the CNMI can be one of the best places in the world. What’s held us back has been our governance, our leadership that hasn’t delivered transparency and ac-

countability,” she said.

Sablan and Staffler are running against incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), as well as Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

USDA RD staff to aid RH 502, 504 loan program borrowers at NMHC

HILO, Hawaii—Staff from USDA Rural Development will be on Saipan from April 25-27 to meet with RH 502 borrowers who need assistance with their loan accounts with the agency to include hardship from the adverse impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to routine servicing tools available for existing borrowers, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated additional funds for Section 502 direct and 504 loans, to remain available until Sept. 30, 2023. The focus will be to refinance existing Section 502 direct and Section 504 borrowers who have received a payment moratorium related to COVID-19. Beginning May 17, 2021, the agency will accept applications from existing Section 502 direct and Section 504 loan borrowers, to refinance outstanding loans which have been in an approved COV-

ID-19 moratorium.

Rural Development staff will be on-site at the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to meet with existing borrowers who need assistance with their account. During this time, RH 502 and 504 loan borrowers may contact Jenny Camacho or Alice Concepcion from the NMHC at (670)234-6866/9447 to schedule an appointment with RD.

Under the Biden-Harris administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. *(PR)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Two festivals at UOG this week

The community is invited to two festivals this week at the University of Guam that were rescheduled from the university’s Charter Month celebrations in March. Both events are in-person on the UOG campus and free of charge.

■ **Green Night: 50 Years of Land-Grant Heritage:** Wednesday, 4pm – 8pm, Agriculture & Life Sciences Building Courtyard, UOG Campus

Join the University of Guam and its College of Natural & Applied Sciences as they celebrate 50 years of land-grant heritage. Land-grant universities are federally designated to focus on agriculture, science, military science, and engineering and to teach and share the benefits of their research with the community.

The event will feature local produce and craft sales, plant sales, cycad garden tours, snake wrangling, a petting zoo, food trucks, light walking trails, yoga, a Glow-in-the-Dark Family Fun Run/Walk, and giveaways. Call (671) 735-2062 for more information.

■ **Micronesian Culture & Traditions Day:** Friday, 6pm – 10pm, Calvo Field House/Student Center Parking Lot, UOG Campus

Celebrate the diverse cul-

tural identities and traditions of the islands of Micronesia with the UOG community. This event, organized by the UOG Residence Halls Governing Council, will feature food trucks, dance performances, skits on island legends, presentations, and cultural displays.

Email uoghgc@gotritons.uog.edu for more information.

Reverse Job Fair today at GCC

MANGILAO—Guam Community College’s Business and Visual Communications program will host its reverse job fair “LinkUP! 2022” today, April 20, 2022, from 9am to 2pm at the Multi-Purpose Auditorium in Building 400. This is the first time the event will return to an in-person setting since the pandemic started.

This reverse job fair has employers visit the campus to see how their company would benefit from employing GCC students. Graduating students with an Associates of Science degree have been working on their display featuring their work through their years at GCC. Graduates will receive their AS in Marketing, Visual Communications, Accounting, and Supervision & Management in a graduation mortocade on May 13. *(PR)*

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SSHS battalion hosts JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge



Participants in the annual JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge have their picture taken.

C/2LT MECHAELLA DE RAMOS



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
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FAX: (670) 664-3237

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 01:00 p.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Old Business
 - a. Japan Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)
 - i. Airline Incentive RFP
- 4) New Business
 - a. Reprogramming of Funds
 - i. Taste of the Marianas
 - ii. Tourism Month
 - b. Sponsorship
 - i. Annual San Jose Fiesta
 - ii. Indigo Music Festival
 - iii. Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Tournament
- 5) Old Business
 - a. The First Saipan Hiking Adventure 2022
- 6) Executive Session
- 7) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 8) Adjournment

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion recently hosted the annual JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge for the first time ever since the pandemic outbreak, giving the cadets an opportunity to demonstrate and enhance their leadership skills, discipline, team work, and self-confidence.

The Cadet Leadership Challenge Encampment, which was participated in by cadets from Saipan's neighboring schools, took place from April 7, 2022, to April 10, 2022, at Saipan Southern High School's stage area. Tents that were set up in accordance with the schools that participated, which included Marianas High School, Rota High School, Tinian High School, and Kagman High School.

On the first day of the encampment, all schools arrived at SSHS and the Top 3 of each battalion were briefed by the SSHS leaders about what to expect and the overall schedule of the event. They used this



day to set up their tents and form up the first ever brigade formation. At night, the SSHS Manta Ray Battalion hosted an entertainment night, which included singing and games.

On the second day, the cadets woke up at 5am, departed the SSHS campground and transferred to the Carolinian Utt in Garapan where training took place. They had a schedule planned out for this day but the adventure training activities were cut short as news of THS and RHS leaving were



announced. Before leaving the Carolinian Utt, they conducted a Tapout Challenge, with THS as the winner of this challenge. The battalions then returned to SSHS to play sports, which included basketball and volleyball, as well as a Tapout Challenge, with THS as the winner of this challenge. At dinner time, KHS hosted an entertainment night, which included singing, a lip-sync battle, and freestyle dancing.

On their last day of encampment, the cadets cleaned up their tents and formed their last brigade formation before eating breakfast. During breakfast time, all battalions from other schools bonded and took that time to get to know one another. After breakfast, all schools departed from SSHS.

"What I like most about the JCLC event was that we were able to become closer with other JROTC schools and that it was a learning experience for cadets. ...Overall I feel good for participating in the event as it is my last year in the program, I wished we were able to stay longer," said one of the Rota High School participants.

"I really enjoyed the entertainment, the games, and the whole event. Not only were the games and performances fun to watch, they really brought the whole brigade together. It unified each battalion together, creating a very significant bond between each other," said C/CSM Chit Acollador from THS. "Overall it was enjoyable! There were some parts where it could be exciting but it's still an event I was glad I participated in. Building new relationships and the fun that everyone had certainly was the center point of the event. I'm glad I was able to participate in this event and hope it will be even better for the next few years to come."

Although this event was cut short due to unforeseen circumstances, the cadets were able to participate in adventure training activities that were designed to develop and enhance their own leadership skills, discipline, teamwork, and self-confidence. Plus they all got to know other cadets from neighboring schools and islands. (PR/Marie Ann Hembra)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 238-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED UNDER 14 CFR PART 139

CPA-RFP-003-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (RFP), and other contract provisions, for proposals from individuals, professional firms, companies and/or corporations to provide instructional training services specific to airports pertaining to the requirements imposed by 14 CFR Part 139, and related federal airport and safety policies applicable to airfield operations contained in the Airport Certification Manual (ACM). The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225(a)).

The successful proposer shall conduct instructional training services at the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) facility, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposals must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands no later than 4:30 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022. Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. One original and three copies of each proposal shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked as "Confidential" and each envelope must include the RFP number on the outside. It is the sole responsibility of a proposer to submit its proposal or proposals in a timely manner.

The Proposal Package is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning March 25, 2022. There is no charge for the proposal package.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director

March 2022



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP22-CHCC/HIT-013

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 20TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF CHCC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NETWORK EXPANSION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER FOR DIALYSIS BUILDING, LOWER NAVY HILL GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS, 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP22-CHCC/CGC-014

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 20TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER FOR DIALYSIS BUILDING, LOWER NAVY HILL GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS, 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

College Board honors MCS student

The National College Board recently recognized a Mount Carmel School senior for his exemplary examination scores on his college placement exam and Advanced Placement courses.

Richard Jesus Mafnas Villagomez was awarded the Indigenous Recognition Award and the National Rural and Small Town Recognition Award based on the College Board National Recognition Program, which is designed to aid underrepresented students who have demonstrated high academic achievement in PSAT/NMSQT, the PSAT 10, or AP Exams. The program is also meant to create pathways for students by awarding them academic honors and connecting them with universities across the United States.

Villagomez is the current National Honor Society president for the Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter. As an exemplary student leader, he is the school's Art Club treasurer, ECO Club secretary, Math Club secretary, and has held previous leadership positions as a class officer. Throughout his high school career, Villagomez has been an active member of his school and local community

by participating in various extracurricular activities such as Art Club, ECO Club, the National Honor Society, Mock Trial, and TED-Ed Club.

In addition to his extensive involvement as a student leader, Villagomez is also an honors student, having completed Advanced Placement, or AP, courses that include AP Calculus, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, AP English Literature, and AP U.S. History.

Villagomez is currently set to graduate on June 4, 2022.

Villagomez has been accepted into Arizona State University, California Polytechnic Institute of Pomona, Cornell University, Duquesne University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Seattle Pacific University, University of California Berkeley, University of California Davis, University of California Irvine, University of Portland, University of San Francisco, and Washington University in St. Louis.

Villagomez intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science and specialize in software development



Villagomez

or Web development. It is Villagomez's intention to return to the CNMI after earning his degree and gaining experience in this field.

As Villagomez reflects on his experience at Mount Carmel School, he said, "MCS has contributed to my growth beyond academics. I've learned a lot of lessons in and out of the classroom, made incredible friends, and studied under devoted teachers—all of which have made me who I am today. Without the undying support of my family and our school, I would have never earned this award."

Mount Carmel School's acting president Frances Taimanao commends Villagomez on this achievement and shares her own confidence in his continued success. "Richard is truly deserving of his recognition and like his peers, it comes as no surprise to our family at Mount Carmel School. Richard is a true model of scholarship, service, and character and I am excited to see all the great things he will certainly accomplish as he pursues an undergraduate degree." (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL CUC-RAESP-22-019

A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection for the Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade (W21-081)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection of the Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade in Papago Drive, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-22-019, A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection for Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.


All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.


GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION TO BID

CUC-IFB-22-025

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-025, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 PM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 28, 2022.** Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.


All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



RE-ANNOUNCEMENT JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 032

Opening Date: April 8, 2022
Closing Date: April 21, 2022

POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY: CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	Fiscal Technician, Customer Service Representative COA/Customer Service Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt Not Contracted Five (5)
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The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- May supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Receives and processes customer payments; screens and verifies check receipts; updates customer accounts; reviews customer account status for partial payment receipts; computes payment information; and issues payment slips.
- May provide field utility meter inspection, testing, investigation, repairs and service documentation.
- Enters and verifies account changes and correction transactions; researches, reconciles and compiles adjustment documentation; prepares billing adjustments; and/or documents customer account status.
- Balances cash and other payment receipts and prepares bank deposits; balances credit card receipts with merchant settlement records; prepares sales deposits; processes customer refund payments; may process and file payroll documents.
- Receives and responds to customer calls and inquiries; reviews account and payment information; explains customer billing regarding charge disputes; assists customers with new accounts, required documentation and application processing; processes work orders as required; and refers inquiries to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and files revenue receipts, change vouchers, and related reports; maintains filing system; and prepares listings, schedules and activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 4 years of utility accounts or fiscal support experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage and testing (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching, reconciling and preparing account adjustments and related documentation; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Researching account information and providing information regarding billing disputes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Biden's plan for a 20% minimum tax on the ultra-wealthy is fair and makes sense

The ultra-wealthy in America have all sorts of tricks at their disposal to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, which is why it's not uncommon for a billionaire to end up with a lower-percentage effective tax rate than an average working American. President Joe Biden's proposal to set a 20% minimum tax rate on the wealthiest households would end that inequity and help pay down the nation's budget deficit.

Biden's plan, part of the budget he announced last month, is far less sweeping than various progressive proposals for taxing the wealthy, some of which would be based not just on income but on accumulated wealth itself. Biden's approach wouldn't do that, though it would mean a major change in the way income is defined for the wealthiest Americans.

Most of the mega-wealthy keep much of their wealth in stocks and other investments, of course. Those assets are not normally taxed as they increase in value year to year, but rather are taxed only when they are cashed out. For someone with enough holdings, it's possible to borrow money against the value of those investments and then live off the borrowed money, rather than liquidating the investments and having to pay taxes on them.

This is at base a tax-avoidance strategy, since borrowed money isn't taxed. Federal economists estimate that between 2010 and 2018, 400 billionaire families paid an average effective federal tax rate of a little over 8%, which is far less than millions of working Americans pay.

Biden's plan would begin with the premise that households worth \$100 million or more must pay at least 20% in taxes on their income. And income for those families would be redefined to include gains in the value of investments that have not yet been liquidated.

In that sense, it's less a tax hike than a requirement for tax pre-payment, since those taxpayers in theory would ultimately owe these taxes on growth anyway when they cash out the investment. Any tax payments those families have to make on those investments under Biden's plan would be counted toward whatever they ultimately owe when they do liquidate the investments. But this would end situations where families simply leave their investments in place for years or decades, refraining from liquidating them and just living off loans and other assets. As a White House summary document of the proposed minimum tax puts it, "This approach means that the very wealthiest Americans pay taxes as they go, just like everyone else."

Polls have long shown that Americans believe by wide margins that the mega-wealthy should be paying more than they do in taxes, as a matter of basic fairness. Biden's proposal would accomplish that with far less pain to those lucky few than many competing plans out there.

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UKRAINE SINKS ANOTHER RUSSIAN WARSHIP



The cost of China's harsh 'zero COVID' policy? Human suffering and economic damage

The stories from Shanghai, a city of 25 million entering its fourth week of COVID-19 lockdown, have been harrowing.

Millions have been confined to their homes, their movements monitored by pandemic police in white hazmat suits. Almost 300,000 people who've tested positive or had contact with someone positive have been forcibly moved to spartan quarantine centers.

Videos on social media have shown people fighting over food or screaming for help from their apartment windows: "Save us! We don't have enough to eat!"

Police took children who tested positive and sequestered them, away from their parents, in state-run hospitals—a policy reversed only after an outcry from distraught mothers.

For over two years, China's response to the pandemic has been the draconian approach known as "zero COVID." It succeeded in stopping the virus's spread in 2020, when no vaccines existed and exposure was more often fatal.

Now, though, most infections stem from the relatively mild omicron variant, and an enviable 88% of people in China are fully vaccinated. Shanghai has reported more than 220,000 COVID-19 cases since March 1 but has officially acknowledged no deaths from the surge.

Still, the government's response has been total lockdown.

The result has been the needless disruption of millions of lives and a blow to the world's second-largest economy, with effects that will ripple across the world.

The damage is impossible to estimate with any accuracy, but big enough that Premier Li Keqiang warned publicly last week that the economy faces "unexpected challenges and mounting downward pressures."

In Greater Shanghai, China's economic capital, workers cannot reach their jobs. Construction projects have halted. Assembly lines for Tesla, Volkswagen, Apple and other major brands have suspended operations.

Supply chains are in chaos. Truck and train traffic have plunged. And according to unofficial reports, hundreds of container ships are stuck unloaded in the region's ports.

The problems aren't confined to Shanghai. Japan's Nomura Bank reported last week that 45 Chinese cities, with almost 400 million inhabitants total, were in some form of lockdown.

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com



The government in Beijing hasn't changed its official target of 5.5% growth for 2022, but economists say that number looks unattainable now.

Until recently, many Americans thought of China as a juggernaut that would soon overtake the United States to become the largest economy in the world—a meaningless landmark, but one that comes with bragging rights.

Two years ago, the Japan Center for Economic Research predicted that the crossover point would come in 2029. Last month the think tank revised its projection to 2033, four years later.

In the face of all that adverse data, you might expect China's leaders to soften the zero COVID policy for the sake of economic growth. That's what has happened, at least tacitly, in the United States, where the Biden administration has relaxed its COVID-19 recommendations in view of the diminished threat of fatalities.

Not in China.

"Prevention and control work cannot be relaxed," President Xi Jinping said last week. "Persistence is victory."

The problem is political: Zero COVID has been one of Xi's signature policies, and he doesn't appear interested in diluting it—especially as he approaches a Communist Party Congress this fall that is expected to award him a third five-year term.

"We often think of China's political system as adaptive and decentralized, but under Xi's strongman politics it's neither of those things," Susan Shirk, a China expert at the University of California, San Diego, told me. "Xi sometimes make mistakes, but nobody dares to tell him. Instead, there's a bandwagon effect; party subordinates often overshoot, because they want to stand

See CHINA'S on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

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High gas prices: The pain is the point

By KEVIN ROBERTS AND DERRICK MORGAN
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

By early April, the average price for a gallon of gasoline in the U.S. had reached \$4.23, up more than 78% in the 14 months since President Joe Biden took office. It's a political albatross around his neck, but it's one that his policy team has deliberately placed there. If the president wants to blame someone for higher prices, he need only look at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Throughout his presidential campaign, Biden promised to wage war on the U.S. energy industry. "I want you to look at my eyes," he said. "I guarantee you. I guarantee you. We're going to end fossil fuel." That's pretty unequivocal. And his policies reflect that.

On his first day in the Oval Office, Biden pulled the plug on the Keystone XL pipeline and put a "temporary moratorium" on oil and gas activities in the Alaska National Wildlife Reserve. A week later, he "paused" new oil and gas activities on federal lands and waters and set in motion an army of regulators to begin the process of restricting financing for, access to and use of conventional energy.

Also in January 2021, Biden formally recommitted the United States to the Paris Climate Accords, the global carbon-reduction agreement that, if taken seriously, would cripple the U.S. oil industry and the entire economy—and do so without the consent of Americans' representatives in the Senate. His nominee to be

vice chair of the Federal Reserve famously argued that the central bank should restrict access to capital for energy companies—"a dying industry," she called them—to punish them for their sins against the climate.

Meanwhile the SEC, with the president's encouragement, is pushing for additional disclosure requirements right now aimed to shame oil and gas companies for their climate impact when we use their products to live our lives.

None of these choices was forced on the president. In every case, he intentionally sought policies and personnel who he knew would cut domestic production of and access to fossil fuels—even as the world's emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic drove global demand for energy ever higher throughout 2021.

Nor could Biden have any doubt that his regulatory war on fossil fuels would, indeed, drive up the price of fossil fuels. In California, where successive progressive governors and legislatures have restricted drilling, mandated renewable fuels, capped carbon emissions, blocked new projects and hiked taxes, gas today costs not \$4 per gallon, but \$6. Gov. Gavin Newsom is developing a plan to ban the sale of internal combustion engines from the state altogether—even lawn mowers—no matter the inconvenience or expense.

These are the same kinds of laws that Biden and his team want to impose on the whole country—and with them, \$6 gas prices.

This is the Left's platform. A few months ago, when Biden's Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm was asked about possibly increasing domestic oil production, she laughed theatrically

at the very idea. And just a few weeks ago, in the midst of the Ukraine war, congressional Democrats proposed a new tax to punish any energy company that increased production!

If we stipulate that the Left's climate zeal is sincere, their pursuit of artificially higher energy prices is entirely rational. They know that the greatest obstacle to their agenda is not political, but economic: Fossil fuels are much stronger, cheaper and more plentiful and reliable than the medieval wind, water and solar that the Left wants to be our future. Most Americans can't afford to live like billionaires—driving electric SUVs and planting acres of trees to offset the emissions from their private jets.

Politicians aren't engineers or scientists. They can't make renewable energy better and cheaper. But they can make oil and gas more expensive—ideally, so expensive that the "sustainable" energy sources they like seem comparably affordable.

The Biden energy agenda isn't a conspiracy. It is an uncomplicated array of policies all aimed at one obvious goal—a goal that Biden himself, his party and the Left openly support. Anyone confused about why the president isn't acting to lower gasoline prices in the near term and boost America's energy production and infrastructure in the long term already have their answer.

The only problem Joe Biden sees with \$4.23 gas is that it's too low.

Kevin Roberts is the president of The Heritage Foundation. Derrick Morgan is Heritage's executive vice president.

We may save the Earth but not in leather shoes

This Earth Day, more than any previous one, it's hard to find anyone who doesn't know that the planet is in trouble. The United Nations has just warned that we must slash greenhouse-gas emissions by 43% by 2030 and reach peak emissions before 2025 at the latest—or time will be up and the game will be over. With the stakes so high, it's easy to feel despondent. But if governments won't act, we can, and individual acts do add up, as surely as individual bubbles create a pot of boiling water. Here's one often overlooked, simple action among many that does make a difference: Ditch leather.

Leather is an extremely lucrative coproduct of the meat industry, which is one of the world's biggest polluters and contributors to the climate catastrophe. Animal agriculture—of which leather is an integral part—is responsible for nearly one-fifth of all human-induced greenhouse-gas emissions.

Clearing land to raise animals and grow crops to feed them is a leading cause of deforestation, including 80% of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest. A report released late last year by the conservation group Stand.earth linked more than 100 fashion brands to Amazon deforestation via their leather supply chains. Brazil supplies more than 20% of the world's total leather exports, making it the single largest source of animal hides.

And remember the admonition not to waste water? Well, animal agriculture uses a massive amount of water, contributing to droughts and the spread of wildfires, and the chemical- and waste-laden runoff from factory farms poisons our waterways—killing fish, creating algal blooms and potentially spreading disease.

Formaldehyde, coal-tar derivatives and various oils, dyes and finishes—some of which are cyanide-based—are used to prevent

animals' skin from rotting in the buyer's closet. PETA Germany investigated the billion-dollar leather industry in Bangladesh and found child workers soaking hides in harmful chemicals. Its investigators visited the poor residential district of Hazaribagh in Dhaka, where 15,000 laborers toil in more than 200 tanneries. Workers stand barefoot in toxic chromium effluent and handle acids and bleaches that can cause chronic skin diseases, respiratory conditions and cancer. According to the World Health Organization, 90% of workers in Hazaribagh's tanneries will die before they're 50. And the scene is repeated along India's waterways and elsewhere.

And then there are the animals. More than 1.4 billion cows, goats and sheep—and millions of other animals—are killed for leather every year. Buying leather supports both slaughterhouses and factory farms—in which animals' eyes and lungs burn from the reeking ammonia fumes emanating out of their own accumulated waste and they're also castrated and dehorned without any painkillers.

PETA's most recent exposé of the leather industry's live export horrors revealed that after enduring a grueling journey halfway around the globe in filthy conditions and without sufficient food or water, some cows are so weak and sick that they no longer have the strength to stand up. So a crane is employed to hoist them up off the ship by one leg, which can cause excruciatingly painful joint dislocations and broken legs. At the slaughterhouse, the animals are often killed without even being stunned first. They're pushed to the ground, sometimes they're tied up and their throats are cut.

The good news is that there are many options that don't subsidize violence and misery or destroy the environment. Today's

facturing and a seemingly inexhaustible supply of workers.

But one of Xi's core promises is that a modernizing economy will deliver higher wages. Meanwhile, China's population—and its workforce—are projected to shrink, a product of its old "one-child" policy.

"They need to develop a new growth model," Aaron L. Friedberg, a China scholar at Princeton University, told me. "Xi's answer has been to try to leap ahead in technology and increase workers' productivity as they lose their low-wage advantage."

But he faces a potential political contradiction.

"They're betting that they can be just as innovative as we are while keeping the flow of information under control inside the country," said Friedberg, author of "Getting China Wrong," a new book on U.S.-China policy. "It's not clear that it's going to work."

Meanwhile, he said, Xi is employing another time-honored device to bolster domestic support for his regime, even in the

By INGRID NEWKIRK

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Ingrid Newkirk is the president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510; www.PETA.org. She is the author of Animalkind: Remarkable Discoveries About Animals and Revolutionary New Ways to Show Them Compassion.



innovative vegan leather offerings are made out of everything from pineapple leaves and apple peels to cactus, cork and mushrooms. One creative company in India makes biodegradable leather out of discarded temple flowers that would otherwise end up in the Ganges.

According to the latest data from the Higg Materials Sustainability Index, a ranking system created by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition, cow leather contributes more to global warming, water pollution, water depletion and greenhouse-gas emissions than any synthetic or plant-based vegan option.

Killing animals for their skin comes with the same environmental baggage as killing them for their flesh. Leather destroys the planet, kills animals and endangers workers. So this Earth Day—and every day!—why not embrace environmentally friendly and ethical fashion by going leather-free? Our Earth really can't wait any longer.

CHINA'S

From Page 8

out as the most loyal."

In a democratic country, a leader would worry about bad economic news in the middle of a reelection campaign.

Xi doesn't have that problem; there's no sign of a challenge to him from the party ranks.

Besides, this year's economic slowdown, which began even before the lockdown in Shanghai, is probably only a short-term problem.

But Xi still faces a long-term economic challenge. His larger goal is to move China into the ranks of advanced high-income countries.

Since Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms in the 1970s, China has grown prosperous thanks largely to low-wage export manu-

face of an economic downturn: unbridled nationalism.

"The regime has deliberately ratcheted up the sense of antagonism between China and the West," Friedberg said. "And it's actually been quite successful at that."

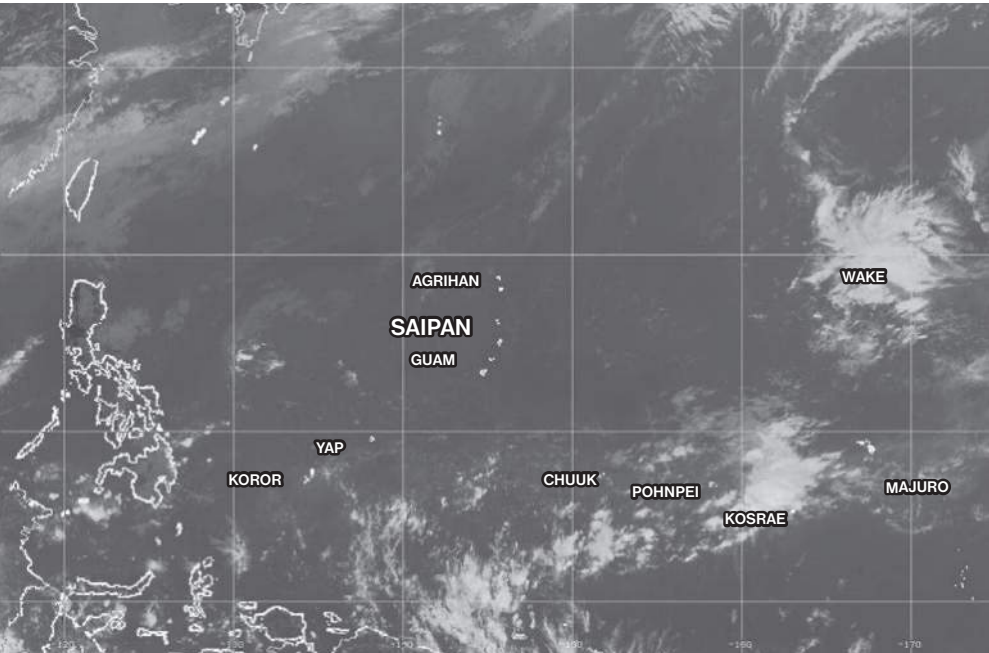
When China accuses the United States of being at fault for Russia's decision to invade Ukraine, he said, Americans and the Biden administration aren't its main audience.

"I don't think it's aimed at us," he said. "It's aimed at the domestic audience and at the developing world—showing that China is emerging as the leader of the global south, willing to stand up to the West."

Russia's war in Ukraine will end someday. When that happens, China—with its economic challenges and its ambitions of international leadership—will reassume its status as the most important global rival to the United States.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Mostly cloudy, with isolated showers.		Mostly sunny, with isolated showers.		Partly sunny, with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Mostly sunny, with scattered showers.	
87°	76°	88°	77°	88°	76°	88°	77°	88°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:58 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showed isolated showers over the Marianas. A dry weather pattern will prevail through Saturday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Sunny	30 / 26 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Yap	Isolated Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:00 AM	18:32 PM
Thursday	05:59 AM	18:32 PM
Friday	05:58 AM	18:32 PM
Saturday	05:58 AM	18:32 PM
Sunday	05:57 AM	18:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	08:38 PM	22:11 PM
Thursday	-	09:37 PM	23:16 PM
Friday	-	10:40 PM	-
Saturday	00:18	11:44 PM	-
Sunday	01:14	12:46 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain	22 / 19 °F	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	30 / 16 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	24 / 21 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	27 / 21 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	18 / 7 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	20 / 12 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	33 / 26 °F	
Melbourne	Showers	19 / 10 °F	
Miami	Partly Cloudy/Wind	25 / 22 °F	
New York	Sunny	16 / 7 °F	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	24 / 14 °F	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	20 / 8 °F	
Busan	Sunny	21 / 13 °F	
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	22 / 14 °F	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	23 / 13 °F	
San Francisco	PM Showers	16 / 11 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	22 / 7 °F	
Tokyo	AM Showers	17 / 12 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	17 / 8 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
04:11 AM	Low Tide	1.17	
09:09 AM	High Tide	1.96	
4:31 PM	Low Tide	-0.31	
11:41 PM	High Tide	1.94	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
				UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
			Daily				Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
ROTA TO SAIPAN				ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable	1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily	1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily				
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily				
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily				
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily				
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily				
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily				
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				

Business

Florida judge voids US mask mandate for planes, other travel

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—A federal judge in Florida struck down a national mask mandate on airplanes and mass transit Monday, and airlines and airports swiftly began repealing their requirements that passengers wear face coverings.

The judge's decision freed airlines, airports and mass transit systems to make their own decisions about mask requirements, resulting in a mix of responses.

The major airlines switched to a mask optional policy, with some eliciting cheers from passengers when the changes were announced over loudspeakers. The Transportation Security Administration said Monday night that it would no longer enforce the mask requirement, and airports in Houston and Dallas almost immediately did away with their mandates after the TSA announcement.

Los Angeles International Airport, the world's fifth-largest by passenger volume, also dropped its mandate but the Centers for Disease Con-



Travelers walk through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on Friday, April 1, 2022 in Seattle. AP

trol continued to recommend masking on transportation "and I think that's good advice," LAX spokesman Heath Montgomery said.

Sleepy passengers on a Delta Air Lines flight between

Atlanta and Barcelona, Spain, cheered and applauded when a flight attendant announced the news mid-flight over the ocean.

"No one's any happier than we are," the attendant says in a

video posted by Dillon Thomas, a CBS Denver reporter, who was on the flight. She added that people who wanted to keep on their masks were encouraged to do so.

"But we're ready to give 'em up," she added. "So thank you and happy unmasking day!"

New York City's public transit system planned to keep its mask requirement in place. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority said it would make masks optional for riders on its buses and trains.

The Association of Flight Attendants, the nation's largest union of cabin crews, has recently taken a neutral position on the mask rule because its members are divided about the issue. On Monday, the union's president appealed for calm on planes and in airports.

"The last thing we need for

workers on the frontlines or passengers traveling today is confusion and chaos," union leader Sara Nelson said.

Nelson said it takes airlines 24 to 48 hours to put new procedures in place and tell employees about them. She said passengers should check with airlines for updates about travel requirements.

The mask requirement covered airlines, airports, mass transit and taxis, and was the biggest vestige of pandemic restrictions that were once the norm across the country.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle in Tampa, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, also said the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention failed to justify its decision and did not follow proper rulemaking procedures that left it fatally flawed.

Global finance meeting focuses on war-driven food insecurity

WASHINGTON (AP)—Global finance leaders are putting the growing crisis over food insecurity and skyrocketing food prices at center stage as members of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meet in Washington and grapple with the brutal effects of Russia's war against Ukraine.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen was convening a Tuesday morning meeting with leaders from the IMF, World Bank, Group of Seven and Group of 20 global organizations to "call on international financial institutions to accelerate and deepen their response" to countries affected by food issues exacerbated by

Russia's aggression, the Treasury Department said.

Russia and Ukraine produce 14% of the world's wheat supply, according to the United Nations, and the loss of commodities due to the war has resulted in soaring food prices and uncertainty about the future of food security globally, especially in impoverished countries.

The U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization Food Price Index has made its biggest jump since its inception in 1990, reflecting an all-time high in the cost of vegetable oils, cereals and meat, according to the organization.

A late March report from the organization stated that the

global number of undernourished people could increase by 8 million to 13 million people into 2023, "with the most pronounced increases taking place in Asia-Pacific, followed by sub-Saharan Africa, and the Near East and North Africa. If the war lasts, impacts will go well beyond 2022/23."

Anna Nagurny, a crisis management specialist at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, said Tuesday's meeting of global leaders was significant and "speaks to the growing fear and the increasing understanding that the world may be on the verge of a hunger catastrophe."

Rare overhaul of US nuclear test reactor completed

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Scientists at the Idaho National Laboratory have completed a rare overhaul of one of the world's most powerful nuclear test reactors and normal operations are expected to resume later this spring, officials said Monday.

The 11-month outage at the U.S. Department of Energy's

Advanced Test Reactor, or ATR, in eastern Idaho allowed a core overhaul that's done, on average, about every 10 years. The changeout was the sixth since the reactor started operating in 1967 and the first in 17 years.

"Overall, I'm very pleased with the ATR workforce and teamwork they demonstrated

during the longest and most complex outage in our history," said Sean O'Kelly, associate lab director for the Idaho National Laboratory's Advanced Test Reactor Complex.

He said the coronavirus pandemic and supply chain issues caused some delays beyond the best-case scenario of completing the work in nine months.



This photo released by Idaho National Laboratory shows its Advanced Test Reactor at Sunrise at Idaho National Laboratory's desert site about 50 miles west of Idaho Falls, Idaho, on Jan. 31, 2007. AP

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Judge rules Amazon must reinstate fired warehouse worker

A judge has ruled Amazon must reinstate a former warehouse employee who was fired in the early days of the pandemic, saying the company "unlawfully" terminated the worker who led a protest calling for Amazon to do more to protect employees against COVID-19. The dispute involving Gerald Bryson, who worked at an Amazon warehouse in the New York City borough of Staten Island, has stretched on since June 2020, when Bryson filed an unfair labor practice complaint with

The National Labor Relations Board, claiming Amazon retaliated against him. Later that year, the NLRB said it found merit in Bryson's complaint that Amazon illegally fired him for workplace organizing. Amazon didn't accept the findings, and the federal board filed a formal complaint against the company, triggering a lengthy administrative court process. On Monday, administrative law judge Benjamin Green said Amazon must offer Bryson his job back, as well as lost wages and benefits resulting from his "discriminatory discharge." Amazon spokesperson Kelly

Nantel said in a statement that the company will appeal the ruling. (AP)

Yellen to see Ukraine PM, avoid Russians at global meetings

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen plans to meet with Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal during this week's big meetings of global economic leaders in Washington—but she'll be trying to avoid most contact with Russian officials who plan to attend some portions of the event virtually. The Russian invasion of Ukraine—and

how world powers should manage the spillover effects on economies, including food insecurity—will take center stage at the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. On Tuesday, Yellen will convene a panel of finance ministers, the international development banks and other institutions to talk about how they will use resources to address food insecurity. This year's meetings run through Friday, and include a mix of virtual and in-person events. Russian finance officials are expected to attend several events virtually, according to a senior Treasury

official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview plans for the meetings.

Shareholders await Musk's next move in Twitter takeover bid

DETROIT (AP)—Twitter has dropped a major roadblock in front of Elon Musk's effort to take over the company, leaving investors to wonder about the mercurial Tesla CEO's next move. The social media company has adopted a "poison pill" defense that makes it difficult for Musk or any other investor to buy Twitter without the board of directors' approval. Musk,

who currently owns about 9% of the company, last week disclosed an offer of about \$43 billion, or \$54.20 per share. Twitter's next likely move is to formally reject Musk's offer, although it could negotiate. Musk has a number of options which also include talks with the board, sweetening his offer, or even triggering the poison pill, which experts say would be disastrous for the company. In a regulatory filing on Monday, Twitter's board said it approved the defensive move to protect the company from "coercive or otherwise unfair" takeover tactics.

Nation

Mass shooting wave rattles communities large and small in US

Three mass shootings in the U.S. over the Easter holiday weekend capped a monthlong spate of gun violence that has touched both big cities and small, rural communities across the nation.

The gunfire has rattled large population centers such as Dallas, Pittsburgh and Sacramento, California, as well as much smaller communities, including Hampton County, South Carolina, which has a population of 18,000, and Dumas, Arkansas, which is home to about 4,000 people.

A look at some of the major shootings:

Dallas, March 19

Ten people were shot at a teen spring break party in Dallas and several others were injured as they tried to escape the chaos. One of the injured, an 18-year-old man, later died of his injuries. The gunfire happened at The Space Dallas event venue. Joe Morgan, who was working crowd control, told reporters that he heard gunshots being fired from outside the venue and later saw people with gunshot wounds to the chest, arms and legs.

DUMAS, Arkansas, March 19

More than two dozen people were hurt and one man was killed when two people got into a gunfight during a car show that's part of an annual community event. Innocent bystanders were sprayed by gunfire, among them several children, two of whom were under the age of 2,



Authorities stage outside Columbiana Centre mall in Columbia, S.C., following a shooting, Saturday, April 16, 2022.

AP

Arkansas State Police Col. Bill Bryant said.

Dallas, April 3

One person was killed and 15 others were wounded by gunfire during a concert at an outdoor field. The victims ranged in age from 13 to 29, Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia said. One person fired a gun into the air, then an argument broke out and another person fired in the crowd's direction, Garcia said. The event didn't have a permit, he said.

Sacramento, California, April 3

Six people were killed and 12 wounded outside bars located a few blocks from the state Capitol in a gunfight involving at least five shooters from rival gangs, Sacramento police said. More than 100 rapid-fire gunshots echoed through the streets as terrified patrons ran for their lives and others were hit by bullets. Police said they identified at least five gunmen, but there may have been more. Police

said at least two gangs were involved.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 10

A shooting inside a crowded nightclub in Cedar Rapids left a man and a woman dead and 10 others wounded. More than 100 people were inside the Taboo Nightclub and Lounge at the time, police said. Officers helped treat the people who were wounded and used their squad cars to rush several of the victims to hospitals.

New York City, April 12

A gunman set off smoke bombs and opened fire in a crowded subway car in Brooklyn, wounding 10 commuters and leaving the train car and a subway platform splattered in blood. After a 30-hour manhunt, police arrested a suspect near a McDonald's on Manhattan's Lower East Side after a tip led them there. Part of the evidence in the case includes YouTube videos in which the suspect rants about race, violence and his struggles with

mental illness.

Columbia, South Carolina, April 16

A gunman opened fire at a busy shopping mall in South Carolina's capital city, wounding nine people, police said. Five other people were injured while trying to flee the Columbiana Centre. The victims ranged in age from 15 to 73, but none of their injuries was considered life-threatening, Columbia Police Chief W.H. "Skip" Holbrook said Saturday. Investigators believe those responsible knew each other, and that others were hurt when they began shooting at each other.

Hampton County, South Carolina, April 16

A shooting at a nightclub wounded at least nine people. The attack happened at Cara's Lounge in Hampton County, according to South Carolina's State Law Enforcement Division. Hampton County is located about 80 miles (130 kilometers) west of Charleston.

Pittsburgh, April 17

Two teenage boys were killed and at least eight people were wounded when a shooting broke out during a party at a short-term rental property. Pittsburgh Police Chief Scott Schubert said there was gunfire both inside and outside the rental home, "potentially back and forth." Bullet casings found at the scene indicated handguns and one rifle were used, he said. Police believe there were multiple shooters. (AP)



ACROSS THE NATION

Parents charged in Michigan school shooting seek lower bond

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—The parents of a Michigan teen who is accused of a fatal school shooting are asking a judge to lower their bond and help release them from jail. James and Jennifer Crumbley have been locked up since Dec. 4, unable to come up with \$500,000 each to leave custody and await trial on involuntary manslaughter charges. In a court filing, lawyers said the Crumbleys are not a risk to the public and would wear electronic monitoring devices. Oakland County Judge Cheryl Matthews will hear arguments Tuesday on a request to lower bond to \$100,000 each. Ethan Crumbley, who turns 16 next week, is charged with murder and other crimes. Four students were killed and more were injured during a shoot-

ing at Oxford High School on Nov. 30. The parents are accused of failing to keep a gun secure at home and failing to reasonably care for their son when he showed signs of mental distress. They have pleaded not guilty.

California woman pleads guilty to 2016 kidnapping hoax

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California woman pleaded guilty Monday to faking her own kidnapping and lying to the FBI about it, leaving her motive unanswered in the carefully planned hoax that set off a massive three-week search before she resurfaced on Thanksgiving Day in 2016. Sherri Papini, 39, of Redding, offered no explanation for her elaborate hoax during the half-hour court hearing. "I feel very sad," she said tearfully when Senior U.S. District Judge William Shubb

asked her how she was feeling. "Were you kidnapped?" he asked her later in the hearing. "No, Your Honor," she replied. "Did you lie to government agents when you told them you were kidnapped?" Shubb continued. "Yes, Your Honor," she responded. Papini agreed to plead guilty in a deal with prosecutors reached last week and is scheduled to be sentenced July 11.

California 'Happy Face Killer' victim ID'd after 29 years

GILROY, Calif. (AP)—A victim of the Happy Face Killer has been identified nearly 30 years after her body was left near a California highway, authorities said Monday. Patricia Skiple of Colton, Oregon, had been known only as "Blue Pacheco" for the color of her clothing until genetic genealogy was used to identify her last week, the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office said. Skiple, a

mother known to friends and family as "Patsy," would have been about 45 years old when she was killed, the sheriff's office said. Authorities identified her with help from the DNA Doe Project, a non-profit group that uses volunteers to help identify people listed as "Jane Does" or "John Does" through DNA profiles of possible relatives. Skiple's body was found on June 3, 1993, on the side of California State Route 152 in the Gilroy area in the San Francisco Bay Area. The cause of her death was listed as undetermined at the time.

15-year-old girl stabbed to death at California high school

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP)—A 15-year-old girl was stabbed to death Monday on a high school campus in an apparently random attack, authorities said. The girl was stabbed several times at about 11 a.m. at Stagg High School

in Stockton in California's Central Valley and died at a hospital, Stockton Unified School District Superintendent John Ramirez Jr. said at a news conference. Her name wasn't immediately released. The attacker, a man in his 40s, was quickly detained. His name was not released. The man drove to the school and went through a campus gate, police said. He attacked before security and staff could stop him, Ramirez said. "We definitely will be re-evaluating" campus security, he said. The school was placed on lockdown after the stabbing.

Results of 2nd autopsy to be given in Patrick Lyoya's death

DETROIT (AP)—Lawyers for the family of Patrick Lyoya, an unarmed Black man killed by police in western Michigan, said they will release results from an independent autopsy Tuesday. Video

from a bystander shows Lyoya was on the ground when he was shot in the head during a struggle with a white Grand Rapids officer on April 4. The official autopsy report is being shared with state police and won't immediately be released to the public. But a separate autopsy was performed by Dr. Werner Spitz, a 95-year-old forensic pathologist who worked on investigations following the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., among other high-profile cases. He's a former medical examiner in the Detroit area. Lyoya's death has outraged his family as well as many people who have watched video of the confrontation with an officer. The officer, whose name hasn't been released, is heard saying during a traffic stop that the license plate didn't match the car. Lyoya declined to get back into the vehicle as ordered, and a short foot chase ensued.

Asia

Shanghai reports first deaths in current COVID outbreak

BEIJING (AP)—Shanghai authorities on Monday reported the first COVID-19 deaths in the latest outbreak in China's most populous and wealthiest city.

All three people who died were elderly, had underlying diseases such as diabetes and hypertension and had not been vaccinated against the coronavirus, city Health Commission inspector Wu Ganyu told journalists.

"After entering hospital, their conditions grew worse and they died after attempts to save them were unsuccessful," Wu said.

The deaths raise to 4,641 the number of people that China says have succumbed to the disease since the virus was first detected in the central city of Wuhan in late 2019.

While China has an overall vaccination rate of around 90%, a low rate among the elderly remains a concern. Only 62% of Shanghai residents

over age 60 have been vaccinated, according to the latest data available. Some experts say China needs to raise that rate before it can safely live with the virus.

While highly contagious, the omicron BA.2 variant driving the Shanghai outbreak is less lethal than the previous delta variant. However, China's low death toll from COVID-19, which is blamed for more than 988,000 deaths in the United States, has raised questions about how China's authoritarian and often highly secretive government counts such fatalities.

Most of Shanghai's 25 million residents are being confined to their homes for a third week as China continues to employ a "zero-tolerance" strategy to curb the outbreak, demanding isolation of anyone possibly infected.

China on Monday said

23,362 people had tested positive for the virus over the previous 24 hours, most of them showing no symptoms and almost all of them in Shanghai.

The city has reported more than 300,000 cases since late March. Shanghai began easing restrictions last week, although officials have warned that the city doesn't have its outbreak under control.

Shanghai, which is home to China's biggest port and most important stock exchange, appeared unprepared for such a massive undertaking.

Residents have run short of food and other daily necessities while enduring lockdown conditions, and tens of thousands of people put under medical observation have been sequestered in crowded facilities where lights are always on, garbage bins overflow, food is inadequate and hot showers nonexistent.

US, S. Korea urge North's return to talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The U.S. special envoy for North Korea said Monday that Washington and Seoul agreed on the need for a strong response to North Korea's recent spate of missile tests, though they remain open to dialogue with the country.

Sung Kim flew to South Korea on Monday for talks two days after North Korea conducted a new type of missile test in its 13th round of weapons firing this year. Experts say North Korea wants to advance its weapons arsenal and wrest concessions such as sanctions relief from its rivals.

Weapons tested include nuclear-capable missiles able to target both the U.S.

mainland and its allies such as South Korea and Japan. There are concerns that North Korea may conduct a nuclear test soon to intensify its pressure campaign.

"We agreed on the need for a strong response to the destabilizing behavior we have seen" from North Korea, Kim told reporters after meeting with his South Korean counterpart. "(We) also agreed on the need to maintain the strongest possible joint deterrent capability on the peninsula."

South Korean nuclear envoy Noh Kyu-duk said he and Kim shared concerns that North Korea will likely continue to engage in acts that raise regional tensions. He

urged North Korea to return to talks.

Kim said the allies "have not closed the door on diplomacy" with North Korea and have "no hostile intent" toward the country. He repeated his earlier statement that the United States is ready to meet North Korea "anywhere, without any conditions."

North Korea has so far rejected Kim's outreach, saying the United States must first drop its hostile policy before talks can resume. Some experts say North Korea wants the U.S. to relax sanctions or suspend its regular military drills with South Korea, which it views as an invasion rehearsal.

World

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR Fight moves to industrial heartland



An interior ministry sapper collects unexploded shells, grenades and other devices in Hostomel, close to Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, April 18, 2022.

LVIV, Ukraine (AP)—After days of regrouping and reinforcing, the Russian military began a new and potentially climactic phase of the war in Ukraine by launching its long-feared, full-scale ground offensive to take control of the country's industrial heartland, the Donbas, Ukrainian officials said.

The stepped-up assaults began Monday along a broad front of over 300 miles (480 kilometers), Ukrainian officials said.

"The Russian troops have begun the battle for the Donbas," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced in a video address. He said a "significant part of the entire Russian army is now concentrated on this offensive."

Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces for eight years in the mostly Russian-speaking Donbas and have declared

two independent republics that have been recognized by Russia. Russia has declared the capture of the Donbas to be its main goal in the war since its attempt to seize the capital, Kyiv, failed.

"No matter how many Russian troops are driven there, we will fight," Zelenskyy vowed. "We will defend ourselves."

Before the offensive got underway, Russia bombarded the western city of Lviv and other targets in what appeared to be an intensified bid to grind down the country's defenses.

The Ukraine military's general staff said Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces had intensified assaults in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions—both part of the Donbas—and in the area of Zaporizhzhia.

On Monday morning, "almost along the whole front

line of the Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv regions, the occupiers attempted to break through our defenses," Oleksiy Danilov, secretary of Ukraine's national security council, told Ukrainian media. "Fortunately, our military is holding out. They passed through only two cities. This is Kreminna and another small town."

There were street battles in Kreminna, and Russian forces took control of the city, according to Luhansk regional military administrator Serhiy Haidai. He told Ukrainian TV that heavy artillery fire set seven residential buildings on fire and targeted a sports complex where the nation's Olympic team trains.

Haidai said that before advancing, Russian forces "just started leveling everything to the ground." He said his forces retreated to regroup and keep fighting.

Gaza militants fire rocket into Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinian militants fired a rocket into southern Israel for the first time in months on Monday, in another escalation after clashes at a sensitive holy site in Jerusalem, a series of deadly attacks inside Israel and military raids across the occupied West Bank.

Israel said it intercepted the rocket, and there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Israel holds Gaza's militant Hamas rulers responsible for all such projectiles and usually launches airstrikes in their wake. It was the first such rocket fire since New Year's Eve.

Early Tuesday, Israeli fighter jets carried out a series of airstrikes in southern Gaza Strip, targeting a "weapons manufacturing site" for Hamas, the Israeli military said. There were no reports of injuries.

Hours earlier, the leader of the Islamic Jihad militant group, which boasts an arsenal of rockets, had issued a brief, cryptic warning, condemning Israeli "violations" in Jerusalem.

Ziad al-Nakhala, who is based outside the Palestinian territories, said threats to tighten an Israeli-Egyptian blockade on Gaza imposed after Hamas seized power

15 years ago "can't silence us from what's happening in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank."

However, no Palestinian group claimed responsibility for the rocket fire.

Palestinians and Israeli police clashed over the weekend in and around the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, which has long been an epicenter of Israeli-Palestinian violence. It is the third holiest site in Islam and the holiest for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount because the mosque stands on a hilltop where the Jewish temples were located in antiquity.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan court sentences 6 to death in killing of Sri Lankan

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistan court Monday sentenced six people to death and nine others to life in prison after convicting them for their roles in last year's vigilante killing of a Sri Lankan factory manager accused by workers of committing blasphemy, a defense lawyer said. The six men sentenced to death were convicted of murder in a case that outraged many Pakistanis. As many as 73 additional men were given jail terms of two to five years by the anti-terrorism court after finding them guilty of playing a role in the killing of Priyantha Kumara.

Kumara was killed in December by workers at a sports equipment factory in Pakistan's eastern Sialkot district where he was a manager. According to defense lawyer Israr Ullah, the judge announced the verdicts after concluding the trial at a jail in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province.

Sri Lankan president admits mistakes led to economic crisis

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's president acknowledged Monday that he made mistakes that led to the country's worst economic crisis in decades and pledged to correct them. President Go-

tabaya Rajapaksa made the admission while speaking to 17 new Cabinet ministers he appointed Monday as he and his powerful family seek to resolve a political crisis resulting from the country's dire economic state. Sri Lanka is on the brink of bankruptcy, with nearly \$7 billion of its total \$25 billion in foreign debt due for repayment this year. A severe shortage of foreign exchange means the country lacks money to buy imported goods. People have endured months of shortages of essentials like food, cooking gas, fuel and medicine, lining up for hours to buy the very limited stocks available.

Good Housekeeping

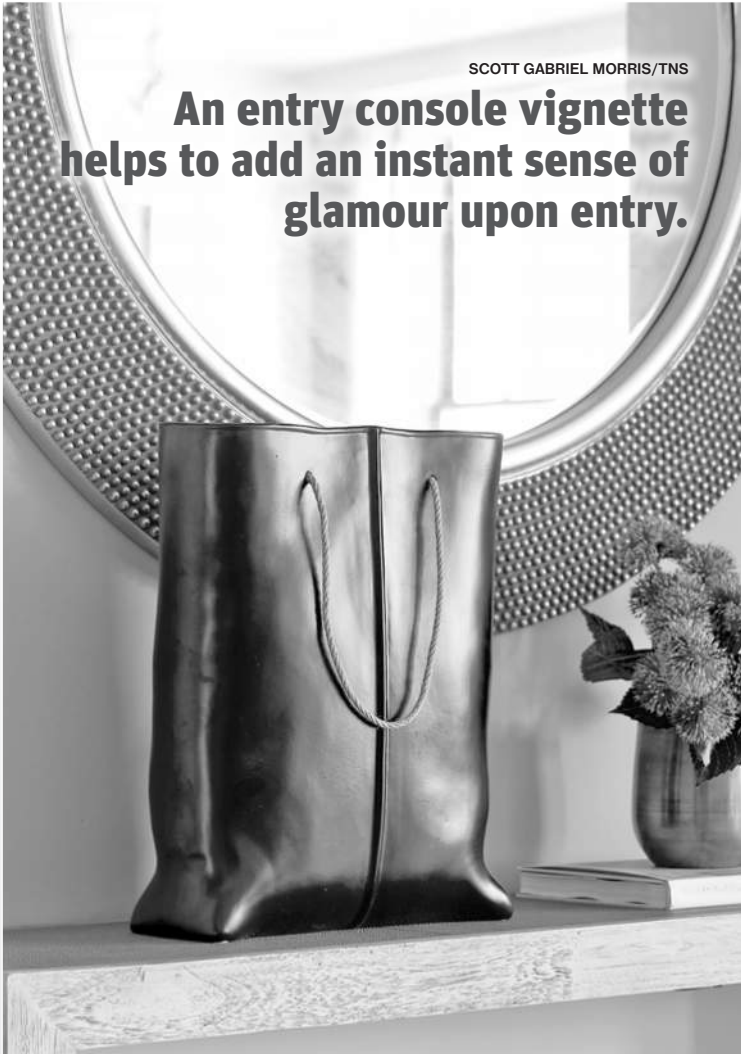
By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Whether in groupings or sets, vignettes provide an opportunity to bring in small arrangements of decor that can help bring nearly any space to life. From entries to side tables, consoles and dressers, vignettes offer an opportunity to infuse interesting decorative elements that will help make a space shine.

10 ways to create a winning vignette

Top ways to create vignettes

1. Look to group decorative elements in pairs or sets of threes. This can offer a nice visual rhythm.
2. Create vignettes of similar colors. Monochromatic looks can be modern and fresh.
3. Infuse metallic elements such as brass when looking to incorporate a sense of luxury.
4. Include “surprise” elements that will help make a vignette feel unique and different.
5. Create vignettes from harmonious but dissimilar elements to make items feel cohesive yet unique.
6. Use vignettes as an opportunity to bring in color and texture.
7. Include florals and greenery in vignettes to add both color and texture.
8. Use vignettes as an opportunity to showcase favorite finds or a unique memento.
9. Consider books as elements to include in vignettes.
10. Use bookshelves and shelving as opportunities to display vignettes.



An entry console vignette helps to add an instant sense of glamour upon entry.



Exotic and global elements make for interesting vignettes in this living space.



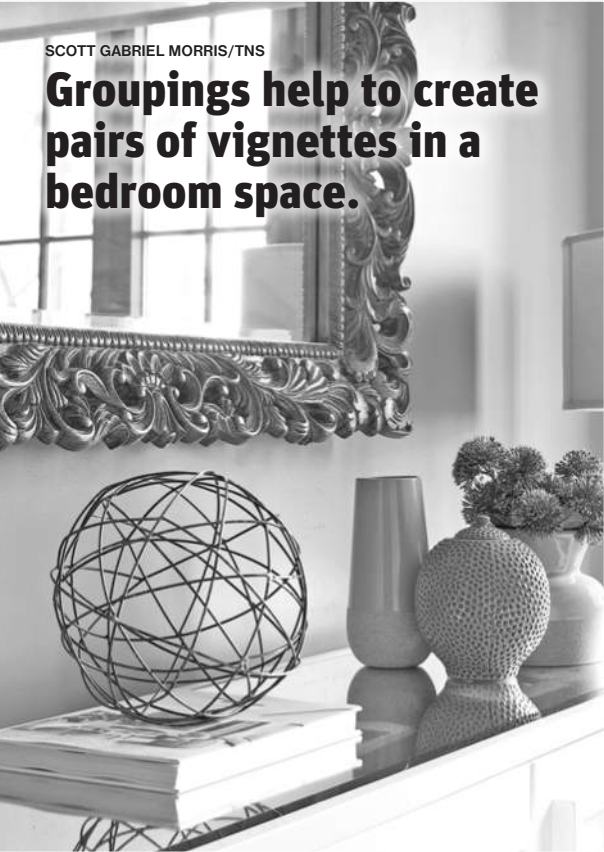
A side table vignette helps to add additional décor and variety.



A bedroom console is used as an opportunity to add texture and color to a master bedroom.



Coffee tables serve as ideal locations for creating layered vignettes.



Groupings help to create pairs of vignettes in a bedroom space.

Life & Style

Potential jurors for Kardashians air disdain to their faces

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Talking trash about the Kardashians is a common pastime for many ordinary Americans. On Monday, a few got to do it to their faces.

Kim Kardashian, her mother Kris Jenner and her sisters Khloe Kardashian and Kylie Jenner all sat in the front row of a Los Angeles courtroom as prospective jurors aired their feelings about the famous family and the four women, all defendants in a lawsuit brought by Rob Kardashian's former fiancée Blac Chyna.

"Anything that has to do with their names is just a big no for me," one man said. "I don't think reality TV is good for society."

Chyna, whose legal name is Angela White, is suing the Kardashians, alleging they destroyed her television career, and during jury selection her attorney Lynne Ciani asked dozens of candidates their feelings about the plaintiff and defendants, and the reality shows the case stems from.

Another said, "I sincerely hope none of these people get any wealthier because of this."

One woman said her teenage daughter tried to watch "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" when it first came on, but she put a stop to it.

"I don't think they were the best role models," she said. "I wouldn't let her watch anything involving them."

One panel member couldn't even wait to be asked. Told to give his name, occupation, marital status and hometown shortly after sitting down, he answered then added, "and I just want to say I have a very negative perception of the parties and I'm not sure I could be



Television personalities Kris Jenner, from left, Kylie Jenner and Khloe Kardashian attend the NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment 2015 Upfront at The Javits Center on Thursday, May 14, 2015, in New York.

unbiased."

The defendants didn't seem defensive about the disrespect. They chatted with each other and smiled during breaks.

Judge Gregory W. Alarcon wasn't entirely pleased by the tone, however.

"I appreciate your honesty. You're certainly not shy," he told the panel. "But this is the type of case like all cases where everybody is entitled to a fair trial. There's a jury instruction that says the wealth of a party or the poverty of the party doesn't matter."

Jury selection is expected to continue Tuesday, with opening statements to follow. The Kardashian women are all ex-

pected to testify during the trial, and had been expected to attend at least parts of it, but their appearance for jury selection was something of a surprise.

Wearing loose-fitting business suits, the mother in white, her daughters in blacks and

grays, they were ushered in by security at the last moment before the jury panel was brought in.

One prospective juror, who has served on other cases, said he didn't like the pampered treatment he felt the defendants

were getting.

Michael G. Rhodes, the Kardashians' attorney, explained that courthouse security drove them in and escorted them into the courtroom for a reason.

"Do you understand that there is a dark side to celebri-

ty," Rhodes said, "and that people that are famous sometimes need extra security?"

"Does that mean that they need Fiji water hand-delivered to them as they sit in court?" the man responded.

The family did have supporters in the room too.

"I am a pretty big fan of the Kardashians so I don't think I would be able to make an unbiased judgment," one young woman said.

"I also am a big fan of the Kardashians," a young man said. "I've been watching it since I was little, so I don't think I could be very fair."

The Kardashian fans said they knew who Blac Chyna was, but hadn't developed strong feelings about her.

One woman who said she didn't care for the Kardashians said she liked Chyna because the two went to the same nail salon and she was "always nice to me."

Chyna, a model and influencer, began dating the lone Kardashian brother, Rob, in January 2016, and by the time the year was over they were engaged, had a daughter together and were starring in their own "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" spinoff called "Rob & Chyna," on the E! network.

Hip hop pioneer DJ Kay Slay dies of COVID-19 at age 55

NEW YORK (AP)—Pioneering hip hop artist Keith Grayson, who performed as DJ Kay Slay and worked with top stars, has died of complications from COVID-19.

Grayson's death at age 55 on Sunday was confirmed by his family in a statement released through New York ra-

dio station HOT 97, where he hosted "The Drama Hour" for more than two decades.

"A dominant figure in hip hop culture with millions of fans worldwide, DJ Kay Slay will be remembered for his passion and excellence with a legacy that will transcend generations," the family

statement said.

Grayson grew up in Harlem, immersed in New York City's early hip hop scene. He got his start as a teenage graffiti artist and was featured in the 1983 hip hop documentary "Style Wars."

He began selling bootleg mixtapes on street corners in the early '90s and released his

first studio album, "The Streets-weepers, Vol. 1," in May 2003. Grayson released several more albums and worked with the likes of Nas, Kendrick Lamar, Jadakiss and Busta Rhymes.

"Hot 97 is shocked and saddened by the loss of our beloved DJ Kay Slay," the station said in a statement.

Glib food comment eats at woman who's battled weight

DEAR ABBY: I had weight-loss surgery three years ago and lost 134 pounds. Two years later, I traded addictions and became a problem drinker. During this time I met a man, but my drinking came between us and we broke up. I stopped drinking three months ago. He contacted me and, when he found out I had quit drinking, we had lunch and talked and we are now dating again.

After a week of dating, he said, "I notice you are eating more than when we dated before. Have you stretched out your stomach?" I said, "No, because I'm no longer drinking, I now eat three meals a day." He said, "I sure don't want you to gain back all that weight you lost!"

My feelings are very hurt and I'm even a bit angry. I really do like him. What should I say to him that will convey my feelings? I want to stand up for myself without being crass.

TRYING AGAIN IN ARKANSAS

DEAR TRYING: The next time you are face-to-face, say, "I would like to revisit something you said to me recently. You said, 'Have you stretched out your stomach? I sure don't want you to gain back all that weight you lost!' It was really hurtful. Surely you know I don't want to gain back all the weight either, nor do I intend to. But if eating healthfully means I'll carry a few more pounds than I did when I was

drinking, you will either have to accept it or I will have to stop seeing you."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is having a small wedding. I have one sister that my daughter and I speak with who is invited to the wedding. I have another sister who hasn't been in contact with my daughter in 20 years. We have minimal contact.

The invited sister is now threatening to give her invitation to my other sister! Have you ever heard of such a thing? She feels that no matter what, family should be invited, and she has taken it upon herself to invite our other sister to the wedding. How do I handle this situation?

MOTHER OF THE BRIDE

DEAR MOTHER: Tell the sister you are still speaking to that when an invitation is sent, it is intended only for the individual whose name appears on the envelope. Contact the sister you speak to RARELY and explain that your daughter's wedding will be a small one, and since she hasn't been close to your daughter in 20 years, she is not on the guest list.

If that doesn't do the trick and she crashes the wedding, don't make a scene. Seat her in the back and explain politely that because she wasn't invited, no accommodation has been made for her at the reception. Focus on your

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



daughter on her big day and avoid any backstage drama.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 69 and a retired military man. My wife passed away almost two years ago. I'm very fond of a single neighbor who is 30 and has two children. She has been inviting me for supper at her house at least three times a week and when I leave, we hug. I'd like to kiss her but I don't know if I should ask first or tell her I'm getting attached to her. How do I find out if she has feelings for me?

DEAR PUZZLED: A way to do that would be to say, "I'd like to kiss you. How do you feel about that?" Then be prepared for the answer either way.

Pastimes

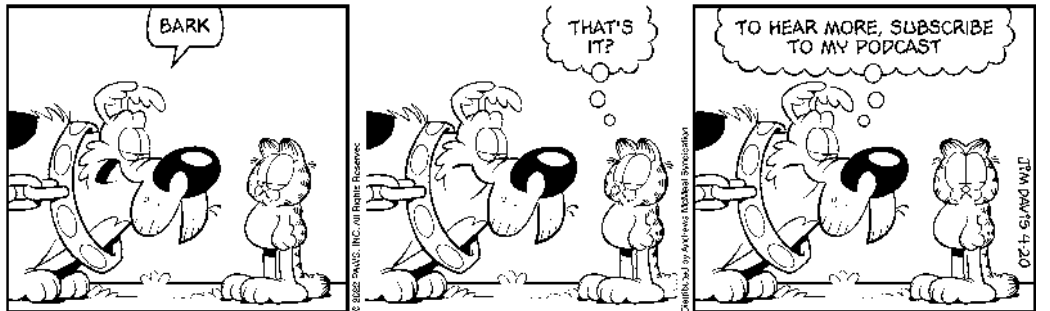
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



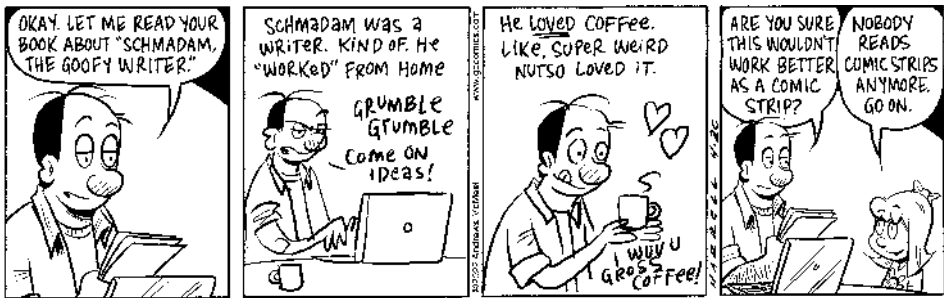
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Goat's cry
4 Mac rivals
7 Ballet attire
8 Flynn of film
10 Bandage brand
11 Bone-head
13 Books, news-letters, and the like
16 Designer mono-gram
17 Brag
18 Author Fleming
19 Curved line, in music
20 Former polit. divisions
21 Colorado ski resort

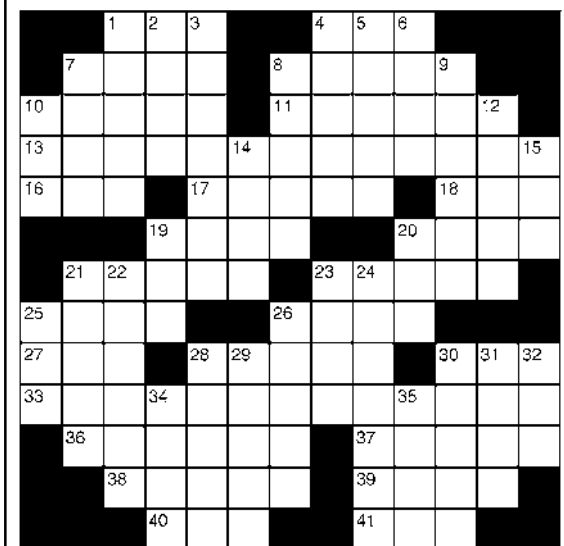
DOWN

23 Out-scores
25 "— guest!"
26 Itsy-bitsy
27 Football's Par-seghian
28 Un-moving
30 Bashful
33 Ritzy serving dish
36 Select groups
37 Hotel units
38 Un-emotional
39 Hiking snack
40 Moreover
41 Stately tree
DOWN
1 Wall painting
2 Slightly
3 Within earshot
4 School dances
5 Zagreb native
6 Cushy
7 Mon. follower
8 Mystery-writing award
9 Medieval musician
15 ICU workers
19 Covert agent
20 Utter
21 Hawk's nest
22 Petite sizes
23 Check
24 Blow up
25 Some coll. degrees
26 A bit lit
28 Attack
29 Pollster's find
30 Tempest
31 Rope fiber
32 Cen. parts
34 "La Dolce —"
35 Hammer or sickle

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	T	A	R	C	N	N	A	M	E	S
C	A	R	E	A	C	E	P	A	L	E
A	D	I	N	M	A	D	H	O	U	S
M	A	D	E	I	R	A	E	L	I	A
G	A	Y	P	A	L					
B	U	R	F	K	M	A	D	O	N	N
A	S	I	B	A	Y	F	O	B		
M	A	D	I	S	O	N	C	O	L	D
S	H	E	T	O	W					
A	D	E	L	E	M	A	D	N	E	S
M	A	D	E	L	I	N	E	X	P	O
A	N	A	T	R	O	B	R	E	I	D
A	M	S	A	P	O	S	S	N	S	

Yesterday's answer 4-20



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Joey Lawrence, 46; Carmen Electra, 50; Jessica Lange, 73; Ryan O'Neal, 81.

Happy Birthday: Stick to what you know and do best. Refuse to let emotional situations influence how you handle your money, health or contractual matters. Put your energy where it will have the biggest effect and ensure that you maintain a stellar reputation. Choose practicality over risk, and make changes that help you excel instead of limiting what you can do to get ahead. Your numbers are 9, 17, 24, 26, 34, 43, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll learn the hard way if you trust someone to do things for you. Take charge of your life, learn all you can and refuse to participate in something questionable. Patience and prudence will pay off. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pay attention, and you'll gain insight that will help you get ahead. Don't trust anyone to invest or take care of matters for you. Handle sensitive situations with compassion, but don't pay for someone's mistake. Do what's best for you. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Making assumptions will lead to trouble. Get all the details, then proceed with diplomacy. The wrong move can cost you more than you want to give up. Observation and discipline will help you overcome temptation. Don't risk your health or wealth. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A demonstrative approach to taking care of business will help you get attention. It will be

challenging to please everyone and essential that you target your market carefully. Put your energy where it counts, and make changes based on facts and wisdom. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll lose if you put your money on the line. Don't believe everything you hear or invest in something because of someone else. Protect your money, possessions, health and position. Dedicate your time and effort to self-improvement. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Battling with someone you love will turn into a no-win situation. Accept the inevitable, and you'll find a positive way to move forward. Unexpected benefits are heading your way. Be patient and work with what you have; good things will happen. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Simplify your life. Concentrate on what matters. Put your energy into self-improvement, raising your qualifications and heading in a direction that makes you feel good about yourself. Avoid joint ventures and following others. Do your own thing. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your gullibility will jeopardize your income or assets. Take control and make decisions that improve your position, not someone else's. A change will help you gain respect and support. Embark on something that motivates you. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Coast along without letting others infiltrate your space or decisions. Maintain discipline, and avoid overdoing, overspending and overindulgence. Put a strategy in place, and work diligently to achieve your goal. Reset your attitude

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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to focus on moderation and simplicity. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let anyone steal your thunder. Call a spade a spade, and stick up for truth, justice and making the world a better place. Be a role model, and you'll turn heads and make a name for yourself. Do what's right. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Confusion will set in if you let others meddle in your life. Sit tight until you know what you want. A conscious effort to make a positive difference will help you maintain your reputation and ward off negativity. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your emotions on the back burner and your energy into doing what you do best. Focus on getting ahead, not going into battle with someone trying to get a rise out of you. Concentrate on self-improvement and personal gain. ★★

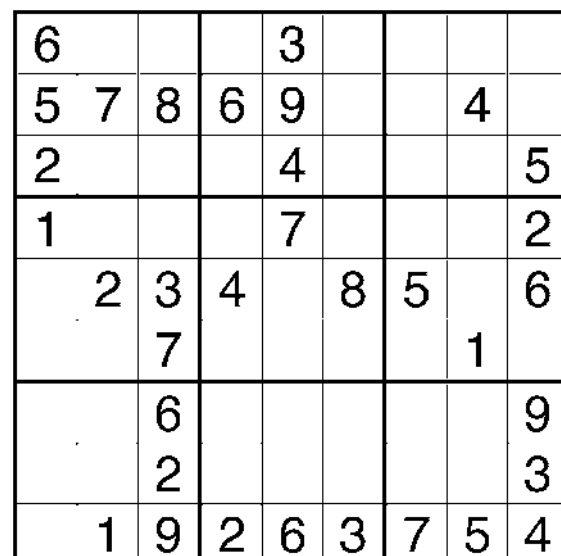
Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, practical and kind. You are persistent and energetic.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



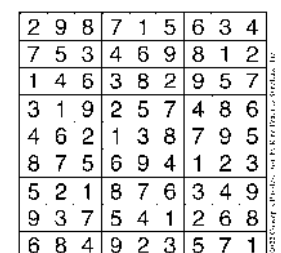
Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JUST ANOTHER RAINY DAY

Solution: 5 letters



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Backyard, Bake, Beach, Book, Boots, Bored, Camp, Cards, Cloud, Cool, Cottage, Crafts, Dance, Farm, Forest, Friends, Frog, Games, Garden, Grass, Grow, Hike, Journal, Leaves, Lightning, Listen, Lynx, Nature, Outside, Park, Path, Plants, Puddles, Rainbow, Read, Seasonal, Sleep, Soil, Spring, Storm, Temperature, Thunder, Umbrella, Vegetables, Water, Wind
Yesterday's Answer: Steady
Treasures 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 48 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Brunson scores 41, Mavs make 22 3s in Game 2 win vs Jazz



DALLAS (AP)—Jalen Brunson, Maxi Kleber and the Dallas Mavericks got even in their first-round playoff series with a bunch of 3-pointers, their fewest turnovers ever in a postseason game, and without injured superstar Luka Dončić.

Brunson scored a career-high 41 points, Maxi Kleber had 25 with eight of their play-off-record 22 made 3-pointers and the Mavericks, with only three turnovers, beat the Utah Jazz 110-104 in Game 2 on Monday night.

In danger of dropping the first two games after opening the playoffs with home-court advantage for the first time since their NBA title 11 years ago, the Mavericks even overcame a 10-point deficit after halftime.

Kleber, who had made only 19% of his 3-point attempts since the All-Star break, was 8-of-11 from beyond the arc and put the Mavs ahead to stay with 4:21 left, then added another 3 on the next possession.

"I started this morning, I was talking to (Dorian Finney-Smith) and I told him, 'Doe, I'm going to let 10 3s fly tonight.' And he said, 'That's my dog.' And that kind of set the tone for the day," Kleber said. "The mindset is we know they're going to leave certain guys open to shoot. We've just got to let it fly."

Game 3 is Thursday night in Utah, where Dallas has lost its last 11 games.

"We did what we had to do, which was win tonight. But we were only focused on tonight," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. "We understand what's in front of us, what's coming. It's going to be a hostile environment."

Brunson, the starting point guard with Dončić out, became the fifth Dallas player to score 40 points in a playoff game. He is the first Mavericks player to do that without committing a turnover. The other 40-point scorers were Dončić, Dirk Nowitzki, Rolando Blackman and Nick Van Exel.

Donovan Mitchell had 34 points for Utah, while Bojan Bogdanović had 25 and Jordan Clarkson 21. Rudy Gobert had eight points and 17 rebounds.

"We tried to go out there and take both (games). Didn't happen. You know we're not going to overreact. We're going to go home, and we've got to take care of business. Simple as that," Mitchell said. "At the end of the day, we're happy we took a game and go back and take care of business."

Dallas had led only once in the second half until a 10-0 run capped by a go-ahead 3



Utah Jazz guard Jordan Clarkson (00) defends against a shot by Dallas Mavericks guard Jalen Brunson (13) in the second half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Monday, April 18, 2022, in Dallas.

by Finney-Smith and a jumper by Brunson. Royce O'Neale then hit a tying 3-pointer and Mitchell made a short jumper to put Utah back in front before Kleber's back-to-back 3s.

"The telltale is we can't have Brunson have the night he had and also be able to kick the ball out for those looks," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "And when those passes are kicked out, I thought we weren't as sharp mentally in our ability to rotate. And that's something that we've done before."

Dončić was still out because of a strained left calf he suffered in the regular season finale eight days earlier. Kidd said before the game that the 23-year-old All-Star was making progress, "definitely going in the right direction" and doing more each day.

Brunson, who had 24 points when the Mavs lost 99-93 in Game 1, made his first five shots — with three 3s — in the first 6 minutes.

"I'm just playing how the defense is giving me, just seeing how they're defending certain things. Just stepping into certain shots," Brunson said. "Yeah, the 5-of-5 start is great, but I had the same mentality when I was 0 for 5 last game, or whatever. ... You can't fluctuate whenever, not even when (Dončić) is in or out. Because you need guys to make plays."

Warriors 126, Nuggets 106

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry drove to the basket with fervor and knocked down a 3-pointer while falling to the ground getting fouled to convert a key four-point play, ex-

hibiting all the signs he's his healthy former self at last.

And the raucous home crowd loved every minute of No. 30's galloping, grinning, body-shaking show.

Curry came off the bench for a second straight game following a month-long absence with a foot injury, scoring 34 points to lead the Golden State Warriors past the Denver Nuggets 126-106 on Monday night for a 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven playoff series.

"The first half a little pep in my step and the body felt good, I was able to kind of get to some spots," Curry said. "When you make certain shots it feels a little different, it feels a little bit more normal and more emotion kind of comes out, especially with that layoff, so it was a nice feeling."

He was only on the floor 3 seconds shy of 23 minutes, and no player in the shot clock era had scored as many as 30 points in 23 or fewer minutes in a playoff game, according to Elias.

"It didn't surprise me because we've been watching this for a long time with Steph," coach Steve Kerr said. "You never really are surprised when he has an outburst like that. It's great to see."

Nikola Jokić had 26 points and 11 rebounds before being ejected with 7 minutes left after a second technical and was held back from a referee, after his first technical came with 2:31 to go in the third.

"I'm not supposed to do that, and I'm not going to do that," Jokić said. "I think I got fouled in the moment because I heard the slap. That's why I just reacted."

The MVP candidate's emotions ran high all night. In the first quarter, Golden State guard Gary Payton II patted Jokić on the backside and the big man turned and came toward Payton when Curry stepped in and held the 7-footer back and Jordan Poole came in to help.

Draymond Green's defense flustered Jokić all night.

"If you feel like you're getting under their skin you press up a little more," Green said. "If you don't feel like you're getting under their skin, you press up a little more."

Poole started for Curry again and contributed 29 points — just missing a chance to become the first Warriors player ever to score 30 in his first two playoff games.

Klay Thompson added 21 points, while Curry shot 12 for 17 with five 3s as Denver again had no answer defensively for all of the Warriors' dangerous perimeter threats.

The series shifts to Denver for Game 3 on Thursday night.

Will Curry start? He said his goal for now is "to make my minutes impactful."

"We'll see," Kerr said.

The Warriors are rolling with the backing of their adoring fans, winning their seventh in a row overall following a five-game winning streak to close the regular season.

Golden State used runs of 16-0 and 23-4 late in the second quarter to erase a 43-31 deficit and take a 57-51 lead at the break. On one particularly dazzling sequence, Green bounced a pass to Poole who threw it behind his back to Thompson for a layup that made it 54-47.

Austin Rivers grabbed at his

left hip and went down hard after getting hurt on a drive then Thompson hit a jumper on the other end in the 5-on-4 advantage before Rivers exited with 10:04 left in the second quarter. He returned with 46.7 seconds to go in the half.

The Nuggets went ahead 43-31 on Monte Morris' layup at the 7:25 mark of the second quarter and the Warriors answered with 16 straight points. The Chase Center crowd went crazy on Poole's 3 with 3:38 remaining.

Curry entered for the first time at the 6:32 mark of the first to a roaring ovation and immediately hit a jumper. With 16 first-half points he became the 27th player in NBA history to score 3,000 career postseason points.

He showed a full range of moves including driving to the basket with a fervor and making a 3-pointer while falling to the ground.

76ers 112, Raptors 97

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid took a stiff arm moments after tipoff and the 7-footer pushed back. Trying to keep his composure, Embiid absorbed a few more deliberate blows from a Raptors defense clearly trying to bully the big guy.

Coach Doc Rivers gave Embiid a quick message: "No, Jo, you be the dominant guy."

The NBA MVP finalist quit deferring and started dominating.

Embiid took his lumps and powered his way to 31 points and 11 rebounds, Tyrese Maxey showed he was no one-game postseason wonder and the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Toronto Raptors 112-97 on Monday night for a 2-0 lead in the first-round series.

"They put me on the floor a few times and to me, this is where it gets interesting," Embiid said. "I'm like, cool. I'm going to come back with more power and make you foul me."

Embiid took foul after foul—he rubbed parts of his shoulders and elbows and shook off at least one foot injury—and made 12 of 14 free throws. He made 9 of 16 shots from the floor for the game.

"That's what we need from the Big Fella," Maxey said.

Maxey had 23 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. Tobias Harris had 20 points and 10 rebounds. James Harden scored 14.

Game 3 in the Eastern Conference series is Wednesday in Toronto.

The Raptors trailed by 27 points but showed some life in the fourth cutting it to 11 until Maxey, the Game 1 star, buried a 3 that got the Sixers rolling again.

OG Anunoby led the Raptors with 26 points. Pascal Siakam and Fred VanVleet each had 20.

The Raptors came ready to rumble after coach Nick Nurse accused the officials of letting the Sixers get away with hard fouls in Game 1. Not even 2 minutes into the game, Anunoby shoved Embiid, Embiid shoved back and both teams had to be separated as the crowd erupted. Anunoby and Embiid were both whistled for technical fouls.

"I didn't really want them to set that tone," Embiid said. "I wanted myself and us to set that tone. That's why I picked up that early technical foul."

The Raptors raced to an 11-2 lead and had the first six fouls to none for the 76ers.

"They wanted to muck the game up and play physical, Rivers said. 'I just told our guys to just play through it.'"

Embiid, the NBA scoring champion who had only 19 points in Game 1, was fouled hard by Siakam and made a free throw — one of the 11 he made in the quarter on 12 attempts. He matched his Game 1 total with 19 points in the quarter.

Embiid told Nurse in the waning moments of the game that he was going to keep making all the free throws if Toronto continued to foul him.

Nurse's retort? "You might have to."

Embiid laughed and said he told Nurse, "respectfully, to stop b——ing about calls."

VanVleet scored 17 points in the half and tried to keep the Raptors in the game. Maxey, who had 38 points in Game 1, didn't score until he hit a floater in the lane with 8:03 left in the second. He followed with an acrobatic layup for a 50-42 lead and suddenly the Sixers had some juice. Harden hit a 3 for an 11-point lead.

Alvarez has 2 HRs in return to lead Astros over Angels, 8-3



HOUSTON
(AP)—Houston manager

Dusty Baker considered giving Yordan Alvarez another day off after he missed five games because of COVID-19 health and safety protocols because he wasn't sure if Alvarez was ready to go.

It quickly became apparent Monday night that the big slugger didn't need any more time off.

Alvarez homered twice with four RBIs in his return to the lineup to lead the Astros to an 8-3 win over the Los Angeles Angels in their home opener.

"It was unbelievable," Baker said. "He came back better than when he left. He was struggling a little bit when he left. He told me he was ready, so when says he's ready I guess I've got to take his word, especially after tonight's performance."

But the Astros lost Jose Altuve in the eighth inning with a strained left hamstring when he fell to the ground after legging out an infield single.

"I'm actually feeling better than what I was expecting but we'll see tomorrow," Altuve said, adding that he would likely have tests done Tuesday.

Alvarez, who had three hits, put the Astros up early with his 417-foot shot to the second deck off Michael Lorenzen (1-1) in the first inning, scoring Michael Brantley.

"It felt great," Alvarez said in Spanish through a translator. "When I hit the ball, the stadium got super loud, so it was a great welcome back."

The Angels tied it in the second before Houston added two runs in the fourth inning to regain the lead.

Alex Bregman doubled with no outs in the seventh, and then Alvarez connected again — a homer to the bullpen in right center to push the lead to 7-3. Alvarez has three home runs so far this season, and it was his ninth multi-homer game of his career.

Houston starter Luis García (1-0) allowed four hits and three runs with seven strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings for the win. Phil Maton, Rafael Montero and Hector Neris combined to shut out the Angels the rest of the way.

Lorenzen took the loss after allowing four hits and four runs with two walks in 3 1/3 innings.

"He was just off a little bit," manager Joe Maddon said. "His changeup wasn't as effective. The breaking ball overall wasn't as effective. He still had decent numbers on the pitches, but wasn't putting them where he had the last time."

Max Stassi hit a solo homer for the Angels, who were



Houston Astros' Yordan Alvarez watches his two-run home run against the Los Angeles Angels during the first inning of a baseball game Monday, April 18, 2022, in Houston.

without star Mike Trout. He sat with a bruised left hand after being hit by a pitch Sunday.

Brantley singled with one out in the first before Alvarez sent a slider into the right field stands with two outs to make it 2-0.

The Angels tied it up on a two-out double by Tyler Wade in the second inning.

Lorenzen's bases-loaded walk of rookie Jeremy Peña with one out in the fourth put the Astros on top 3-2. Lorenzen then plunked Jose Siri on the hand to score another run and end his night.

With two outs in the sixth, Stassi homered to right field to cut the lead to 4-3 and chase García.

The Astros had runners at first and third with one out in the sixth when Martín Maldonado drove in a run on a sacrifice bunt to make it 5-3.

Dodgers 7, Braves 4

In Los Angeles, Freddie Freeman slugged his first home run in a Dodgers uniform, Trea Turner's three-run double highlighted a five-run fourth inning, and Los Angeles beat Atlanta for its seventh consecutive victory.

Freeman didn't wait to tee off against his old team, sending a shot to the left-field pavilion in the first off Huascar Ynoa (0-2). That triggered chants of "Freddie! Freddie!" from the sellout crowd of 52,052 as the first baseman pumped his right arm coming into home plate.

Before the game, an emotional Freeman spent time in the Braves clubhouse, reliving memories of winning last year's World Series. He signed a \$162 million, six-year deal with the Dodgers in March, ending a 12-year run

with the Braves, the only team the Southern California native had played for.

Freeman was 1 for 3 with two runs and two walks. He also made a stellar defensive play.

Cody Bellinger also homered for the Dodgers in a rematch of the past two NL Championship Series.

Guillermo Heredia and Ozzie Albies homered off Clayton Kershaw (2-0). Fourteen of the Braves' 15 homers this season have been solo shots.

Coming off seven perfect innings at Minnesota last week, Kershaw allowed four runs and six hits in five-plus innings. He struck out seven and walked none.

Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his third save.

Twins 8, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Jorge Polanco and Kyle Garlick hit early two-run homers over the Green Monster to back Dylan Bundy, and Minnesota won in Boston's annual Patriots' Day game.

The game started at 11:11 a.m. EDT, played in conjunction with the 126th Boston Marathon.

Polanco added a two-run single in a four-run eighth inning and Gio Urshela had three singles for the Twins, who won the series finale for a four-game split.

Bundy (2-0) gave up one run and five hits in 5 1/3 innings with six strikeouts and no walks.

Rich Hill (0-1), pitching three days after the death of his father, gave up four runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Cubs 4, Rays 2

In Chicago, rookie Seiya

Suzuki extended his hitting streak to nine games, tying Akinori Iwamura for the longest by a Japanese-born player at the start of a major league career, and Chicago beat Tampa Bay.

Suzuki matched the mark that Iwamura set with the Rays in 2007. He is batting .429 after going 2-for-3 on a cold night.

Ian Happ's RBI single in the eighth against Jeffrey Springs broke a 2-2 tie and drove in Suzuki, who was hit by a pitch from Jason Adam (0-1) leading off the inning.

Keegan Thompson (2-0) got Randy Arozarena to ground into an inning-ending double play in the fifth and struck out five in 3 2/3 innings while allowing one hit.

David Robertson pitched around a walk in the ninth for his fourth save.

Brewers 6, Pirates 1

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich belted a grand slam for his first homer of the season and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

Yelich's two-out slam capped a five-run rally off Pirates starter Zach Thompson (0-1) in the fourth inning. The 429-foot blast was Yelich's fourth career grand slam.

Eric Lauer (1-0) gave up one run and five hits in six innings while striking out five and walking one. Pittsburgh got its only run in the fourth on rookie Diego Castillo's first career homer, which came one pitch after Castillo swung at a slider from Lauer that hit him in the knee.

Rockies 4, Phillies 1

In Denver, Chad Kuhl pitched six scoreless innings during his home debut with

the Rockies before leaving with a tight right hip flexor and right hamstring, and Charlie Blackmon hit a go-ahead homer to lead Colorado past Philadelphia.

Kuhl (1-0) allowed a pair of singles, struck out four and walked one, throwing 42 of 68 pitches for strikes. He went to the mound to warm up for the seventh but didn't start the inning.

Tyler Kinley worked a perfect seventh and Alex Colome allowed a two-out walk in a hitless ninth for his first Rockies save.

Aaron Nola (1-2) took a shutout into the sixth before Blackmon led off with his first home run this season.

Padres 4, Reds 1

In San Diego, Manny Machado had a two-run homer among his three hits and Sean Manaea pitched six strong innings as San Diego

handed Cincinnati its seventh straight loss.

The Padres extended their major league record with 12 consecutive errorless games to open a season.

The Reds took a rare lead when Tommy Pham, who played for the Padres the past two seasons, homered in the first. Pham finished with three hits.

Manaea (2-1) struck out six and walked two. Taylor Rogers pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Nick Lodolo (0-2) allowed three runs over five innings in his second big league start. He struck out eight and walked two.

Athletics 5, Orioles 1

In Oakland, Calif., Frankie Montas allowed two hits over six innings, and Oakland threw out two runners at the plate to beat Baltimore in its home opener.

A crowd of 17,503 weathered chilly temperatures to view a matchup between the teams with the two lowest payrolls in the major leagues. Attendance was the lowest for an A's home opener without COVID-19 restrictions in at least 30 years.

Montas (2-1) struck out five and walked two for his second straight win. He retired 12 of his first 13 batters and did not allow a hit until the fifth, giving A's rookie manager Mark Kotsay his first win at the Coliseum.

Oakland scored four unearned runs in the sixth after Orioles third baseman Ramón Urías and second baseman Rougned Odor made errors.

Baltimore loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth before Dany Jimenez struck out pinch-hitter Ryan McKenna on a checked swing.

Joey Krehbiel (1-1) took the loss.

Angels' Mike Trout hit by pitch on hand, X-rays negative

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels say three-time AL MVP Mike Trout is day to day and X-rays were negative after he was hit on his left hand by a pitch Sunday.

Trout was struck by a 1-1 slider from Texas Rangers right-hander Spencer Patton leading off the fifth inning. Trout was seemingly handcuffed by the 81 mph pitch, lowering his hands to protect his midsection.

Trout jumped around and shook the hand in pain. He initially walked toward the visiting dugout, then marched about halfway down the first-base line, where he was met

by trainer Mike Frostad and manager Joe Maddon. Frostad checked to see if Trout could squeeze the hand, then walked him off the field and back to the clubhouse.

Trout is hitting .267 this season with two home runs and two RBIs. He earlier doubled on a flair to short right field.

The 30-year-old Trout played only 36 games last season through May 17 because of a calf injury.

Trout had surgery in 2017 after tearing ligaments in his left thumb on a slide into second base. He hasn't played more than 140 games in a season since 2016.

Agape to host youth caging starting April 27



MARK RABAGO

A NMI Rollers player goes up for a layup in this file photo from a recent youth league at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Agape Christian School in commemoration of its 15th year anniversary will be holding the Inaugural Agape Anniversary Youth Basketball Tournament from April 27 to 30 at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Marianas Islands Basketball League's Elias Rangamar said the four-day competition will have a maximum of eight teams and only players 18 years old and under are eligible. The teams will be divided into two pools and each team will play in a round-robin format where the Top 2 teams from each pool advance to the crossover quarterfinals.

Teams are allowed to have a

roster of up to 15 players and proof of age is required by organizers. ACS will also award trophies to the championship after the end of the tournament.

Rangamar said he's happy that students of ACS can finally partake of the sport they love and MIBL is just glad to assist them in their tournament.

"Because of COVID-19 they weren't able to play in any of the Public School Sys-

tem tournaments but now that COVID-19 protocols have been dialed down they just want to give their students some opportunity."

Agape Christian Church pastor Kok H. Pang said the Inaugural Agape Anniversary Youth Basketball Tournament is a double celebration as not only is the school celebrating its 15th anniversary, this year also marks the 30th anniversary of the church.

"We celebrate God's goodness and His bountiful blessings over the last 30 years. This year is the 30th anniversary of our mission board: Calvary International Mission dba Chinese Christian Church of Saipan. We are having church and school celebrations with Thanksgiving services on other occasions. Since there are many youngsters in our church/school, a youth tournament is good and natural for them too. Furthermore, youth is the future of our family and country!" he said.

For more information on the Inaugural Agape Anniversary Youth Basketball Tournament, call Rangamar at (670) 287-6347 or click on the link <https://form.jotform.com/221030268666049>.

Lady Tritons drop opening playoff game to BallHers

The University of Guam Lady Triton basketball team saved their best game of the Lady Triton Super League season for the first round of the playoffs, but UOG still could not pull off a win in a 60-48 loss to the BallHers basketball club on Saturday night in the UOG Calvo Field House.

The Tritons had an issue of scoring in the first half of games during the regular season, but on this night, they scored 32 points in the first half, leading after the first quarter, 16-11, and at half-time, 32-27, but the tide went against them in the 2nd half, as the BallHers outscored them 14-8 in the 3rd quarter to take a 43-40 lead heading into the fourth quarter and the BallHers

won the final quarter, 17-8, and the game, 60-48.

Trinity Edilyoung led the Tritons with 13 points and Jazmin Samonte had 10 points.

This was the first game in the Super League that two Lady Tritons had scored in double figures in a game. The BallHers were led by Ansile Sar Savejo with 19 points.

The Lady Tritons finished the Super League with a 0-9 record. The BallHers improved to 4-5 on the season and now will face the Lady Bombers (8-0) on Tuesday at 8:15pm in the semi-finals of the Lady Triton Super League. Acdavate (5-3) and Fuetsa (4-4) meet in the other semifinal on Tuesday as well. (PR)



TRITON ATHLETICS

Trinity Edilyoung (#30) led UOG with 13 points in their 60-48 loss to the BallHers basketball club in the Lady Triton Super League Saturday night in the UOG Calvo Field House.

SAN JOSE

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discovering techniques, and playing other sports. I dedicate this victory to my senior best friends who are graduating this May. It might be our first and last Rocball championship as a whole, but it certainly is one for the books," he said.

Justo, for his part, thanked Rocball founder and MHS physical education teacher James Feger for teaching them the sport and continu-

ing the legacy of the sport.

"We want to dedicate our victory to the original San Jose team and Mr. Feger, who we appreciate greatly. Secondly, we are grateful for the win, experiencing a new sport, and competing against our peers at MHS. Lastly, we hope that Rocball will continue to grow in popularity on Saipan and worldwide," he said.

Feger, for his part, congratulated San Jose and Nakama for a well-played finals game

in the 2022 Micronesian Rocball Championship.

"We played this season's games as two losses and teams were eliminated. The last two teams without two losses went into the finals. Team San Jose was undefeated. Team Nakama only lost one game in the regular season and that was to Team San Jose. One noteworthy player for Nakama was Zahan Hossain. He won the heavy hitter title three times this year and won three different Rocball

shirts as prizes," he said.

Joining Hossain in Team Nakama are Raiki Tababa, Seth Tababa, Sherry Zhu, Zahan Hossain, Ian Lubao, and William Arriola.

The finals between Team San Jose and Team Nakama was played in two installments in March and April as Feger explains:

"It was held in the last week of March and the first week of April. It took two days to finish one game of four sets during lunchtime.

And, we were only playing two days a week for the games. The gym is scheduled for lunchtime activity for basketball and volleyball for the other days of the week," he said.

Feger said Rocball is a sport that is known as a revolution on collocated courts. Formerly identified as Rocball, Saipan's own sport, it's the first sport to include 3-point scoring, unrestricted hitting/kicking, and rally point scoring before the

team net sports of basketball and volleyball adopted these creative forms of competition in the late 1980s and mid-1990s.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	6	4	.600	
Boston	5	5	.500	1
New York	5	5	.500	1
Tampa Bay	5	6	.455	1½
Baltimore	3	7	.300	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	6	3	.667	
Cleveland	4	5	.444	2
Detroit	4	5	.444	2
Minnesota	4	6	.400	2½
Kansas City	3	5	.375	2½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	6	4	.600	
Los Angeles	6	5	.545	½
Oakland	6	5	.545	½
Seattle	5	5	.500	1
Texas	2	7	.222	3½

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	3	.700	
Miami	4	5	.444	2½
Atlanta	5	7	.417	3
Philadelphia	4	7	.364	3½
Washington	4	7	.364	3½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	5	3	.625	
Chicago	6	4	.600	
Milwaukee	6	5	.545	½
Pittsburgh	5	5	.500	1
Cincinnati	2	9	.182	4½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	8	2	.800	
San Francisco	7	2	.778	½
Colorado	7	3	.700	1
San Diego	7	5	.583	2
Arizona	3	6	.333	4½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NAPA

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62 advantage against Magalahi Eagles.

In the playoff period, Henry De Jesus and Orly Ebuen sparked an offensive explosion by NAPA Auto that ballooned a 10-point lead to a 33-point winning margin.

Montano and Ebuen paced all scorers with 18 points apiece for NAPA Auto, while

Magalahi Eagles were led by Nilo Panez and Bong Martinez with 15 points apiece.

In the second game, The Game rebounded from its sorry loss against HBR International after waylaying Royal Pacific, 118-77, in the open division. Mac Mintac and Kerwin Dayao fired 33 points and 28 points, respectively, to spearhead The Game's seventh win in 10 outings. The loss dropped Royal Pacific to a 2-9 record.

In another open division matchup in the third game, Blue Haus notched its 10th win against three losses after eclipsing Vizion Insurance, 84-73. Brandon Talania was the high-point man for Blue Haus, while Rodel Pastrana led 6-6 Vizion Insurance with 27 points of his own.

First Game

NAPA Auto 105 – Montano 18, O. Ebuen 18, Abuy 17, De Jesus 13, S. Ebuen 10,

Tabora 6, Guinto 6, Manabat 4, De Guzman 4, Bartolo 4.

Magalahi Eagles 72 – Panes 15, Martinez 15, Claveria 13, Brillo 9, Odicta 5, Banting 4, De Ramos 2, Regaton 2, Cortez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 13-25, 52-41, 72-62, 105-72.

Second Game

The Game 118 – Mintac 33, Dayao 28, Deleon Guerrero 27, Lizama 15, Shamburger 8.

Royal Pacific 77 – Basi 37,

YOUTH

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they can fly to Guam this weekend and compete in the Chamorro Open.

"I am very excited to go compete in Guam since it is my first time. I was supposed to go to Guam two years ago for the Northern Pacific Re-

gional Championships but that didn't happen because of the pandemic," she said.

Elliot echoed Chung's sentiments, adding that it's a relief that they can finally go to an off-island tournament since her last tennis trip outside of the CNMI was 2019.

"I am really excited to go off-island to be able to compete because I will be able

to challenge other players," she said.

David Kwon said he too is excited to finally play in the Chamorro Open in Guam.

"I'm so excited to play in Guam. I think it's been three years. I just wanna play my 100% that I will not regret it after," he said.

Top boys junior netter Jimin Woo said like Kwon he

hasn't played in an off-island tournament since 2019.

"I am very excited since the last time I played a tournament off-island was almost three years ago."

Woo likens the anticipation he now feels for the Guam trip to what he felt six years ago when he went to compete in New Zealand.

"I played a few tourna-

ments in New Zealand which was the last time I played competitively off-island [not counting Guam]," he said.

Race said he would use the Chamorro Open as a barometer to gauge the play of the CNMI's top junior netters.

"I'm just going to be looking at the results as an indicator of where we are at right now," he said.



Brunson scores 41,
Mavs make 22 3s in
Game 2 win vs Jazz

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Agape to host
youth caging
starting April 27

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20 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

San Jose wins Roccball championship

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Behind Jerome Manzon and John Justo, Team San Jose took home the title of the 2022 Micronesian Roccball Championship at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the best-of-three affair against Nakama, San Jose won first same, 63-29. The second game, however, saw undefeated team San Jose drop its first set of the season when it yielded the opener, 15-11, to a rallying Nakama team. The latter, however, couldn't



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team San Jose players pose with their first place trophy after winning the 2022 Micronesian Roccball Championship earlier this month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

sustain its push and San Jose ultimately locked up the title and the undefeated season with a 60-45 victory in the second set.

Manzon shone the brightest in the finals and was the heavy hitter with 13 two-point aces and five three-point goals. Not far behind is his teammate Justo who scored 12 two-point aces.

Aside from Manzon and Justo, also making up San Jose are Jasper Perez, Fatima Monterubio, Madelleen Narriso, Dylan Mister, Jurvel Magtala, and Rizza Relucio.

Manzon, who is also an up-and-coming volleyball player in local leagues, said winning a championship in the CNMI's indigenous sport of Roccball is special and something he won't easily forget.

"It feels great to have another championship under my career. It has been a great season, learning many things,

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NAPA Auto ends regular season on winning note

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

NAPA Auto finished its regular season assignments with a 105-72 win over Magalahi Eagles in the masters division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

The team, along with No. 1 seed Blue Haus, will get a bye in the first round of the playoffs. The No. 3 seed is still undecided pending the conclusion of the rained-out

game between Blue Haus and DECM.

NAPA Auto scoring its third win 10 games actually was in doubt early even against a Magalahi Eagles team still searching for its first win. Ryan Odicta and Walter Brillo fired 10 points between them in the opening quarter to give the upset-conscious team a 25-13 lead.

As in the past games, however, Magalahi Eagles couldn't sustain the effort and were buried under an

avalanche of points from NAPA Auto beginning in the second quarter.

With sharpshooters James Abuy and Bernard Montano finally finding their range, NAPA Auto erased their opponents' 12-point lead and took a 52-41 spread at the half.

Both teams played level in the third with reserves making the bulk of the scoring and after 30 minutes of play, NAPA Auto had a 72-

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MARK RABAGO

NAPA Auto's Bernard Montano, seen here in a file photo, scored 18 points against Magalahi Eagles in their masters game in the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

23 youth netters to compete in Guam's Chamorro Open

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The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will be taking a team of 23 junior players to Guam for the Chamorro Open Tennis Tournament, which will have its junior division this weekend at the Guam National Tennis Center in Dededo.

NMITA president Jeff Race said the CNMI delegation would be made up of 15 boys and eight girls tennis players.

The 15 boys junior netters are Jimin Woo, Andy Kim, Jun Wang, David Kwon, Cody Shimizu, Simon Tang, Wataru Kadokura, June Yu, Nason Wessel, Henry Choi, Taher Shakir, Yutaka Kadokura, Ian Chae, Ryan Choi, Jihun Park, and Eamon Tang.

The eight girls junior netters are Hye Jin Elliot, Serin Chung, Savita Sikkell, Anna Kwon, Irin Chung, Hoo Wang, Hannah Chae, and Lina Tsukagoshi.

Irin Chung said after off-island tournaments were pretty much off the table due to COVID-19 the past couple of years she's glad that

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Woo



Elliot

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DAYS LEFT UNTIL

**NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022**

JUNE 17-25, 2022